

# London Bird Report 2008

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**London Natural History Society**

*Marking 150 years of observing and documenting London's natural history*

## London Natural History Society

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New members, beginners and experts alike, are welcomed. An extensive programme of talks and field meetings, to which visitors are welcome, is provided throughout the year. As well as the annual *London Bird Report*, the Society publishes a journal, *The London Naturalist*, each year and its Newsletter and Bulletin of the London Bird Club every quarter. Members have access to a large lending and reference library of natural history books and can join one or more of several reading circles which circulate many natural history journals at a fraction of the cost of subscribing direct.

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# London Bird Report

**No.73**  
**for the year 2008**



London  
Natural  
History  
Society

Published October 2011





# London Bird Report for 2008

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# London Natural History Society

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## London Bird Report for 2008

This London Bird Report has been produced by an Editorial Board, comprising:

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## INTRODUCTION

This is the second London Bird Report to be published in 2011, so we are making progress with the backlog of reports. Hopefully this will continue in 2012. By the time you read this we will be working on *LBR 2009* and *LBR 2010*, so if you have any 2010 records that you haven't already sent to us, please send them in as soon as you can.

In this report we have made changes to the Contributors List and to the Gazetteer of Sites, both of which are explained in those sections. We have also combined the Checklist of Birds of the London Area with the Guide for Contributors of Records.

Any comments you have on these changes would, as always, be welcome. We have tried in this report to give more emphasis to the commoner birds of London, particularly where their status appears to be changing. We would particularly welcome more records or observations on commoner birds. Please send any comments you have on the report to me; my contact details are below.

As is our normal practice, this report of records for 2008 also lists amendments from previous years. There were rather more than usual this time, due to a couple of problems we had in producing *LBR 2007*. Due to pressures on space, we have included some amendments within the Systematic List but held others over to *LBR 2009*.

Mark Pearson, our Middlesex Recorder, moved out of London in 2011 and Sean Huggins has taken over this role. Our thanks to Mark for all the work he did for us and best wishes for the future.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On behalf of the London Natural History Society, I would like to thank the hundreds of individuals and organisations who have contributed records to this report.

I would also like to thank all those who helped with the production of the report: the 19 authors of the Systematic List (listed above); Jan Wilczur (JPPW) and Roy Woodward (RKW) for their illustrations; all the photographers who kindly donated their photos; and Andrew Verrall who proof-read the text. Thanks also to all the members of the Editorial Board.

I am particularly grateful to all the Recorders, who, in addition to the time-consuming tasks of inputting all the data for their area, checked the species accounts in the Systematic List and provided comments and corrections. Thanks also to Thames Water for the many courtesies extended to our members, and to the following organisations for their generous help in the exchange of records:

BirdGuides

British Birds Rarities Committee

British Trust for Ornithology

Buckinghamshire Bird Club

East London Birders Forum

Hertfordshire Natural History Society

Kent Ornithological Society

Londonbirders Yahoo group

Surrey Bird Club

*Pete Lambert, Chair of the Editorial Board, September 2011*

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# Rarities Committee and Recorders

## Rarities Committee

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**Surrey** Nick Tanner, 11 Collins House, Newby Place, Poplar, London, E14 0AX  
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## Recording Arrangements

The area covered by this Report, conventionally known as 'the London Area', is the area within 20 miles of St Paul's Cathedral. The Area covers the whole of Greater London and parts of Hertfordshire, Essex, Kent, Surrey, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. However, for continuity of recording, Watsonian vice-counties are used in this Report instead of the present administrative areas (but note that vice-counties 18 and 19, South and North Essex, are lumped together as Essex). **The vice-county boundaries are shown on the map of the LNHS Recording Area, opposite.** There is also a special recording zone for Inner London. This is a rectangular area, five miles north to south, eight miles east to west, centred on the site of the old Charing Cross on the south side of Trafalgar Square, which covers parts of Middlesex, Surrey and, just, Kent.

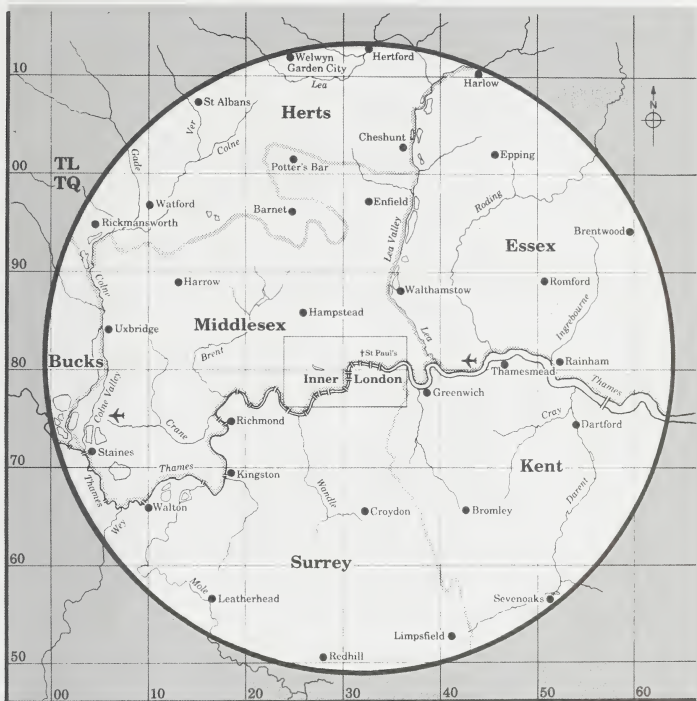
The names used in this Report for certain sites are not shown on, or differ from those on, Ordnance Survey maps. **Please consult the Gazetteer of Sites on pages 9 to 15 if in any doubt.** It would be helpful if these names could be used by observers when submitting records. A National Ordnance Survey Grid Reference should be given in any difficult or doubtful case.

All records of interest are welcome, from LNHS members and non-members alike. These include information on the local status of common species, breeding records, notes on migration (including first and last dates and main movements), regular counts of wintering populations, and notes on behaviour and on the occurrence of unusual birds. Many of the passerines, in particular, are under-recorded. Regular reports from the same localities are invaluable in assessing population trends; such reports, along with comments on changes in status, are always very welcome. **A Guide for Contributors of Ornithological Records is published in this report on pages 231 to 240.** Records should be sent to the appropriate Recorder listed on page 7 or, if in doubt, to the Chair of the LBR Editorial Board.

It will greatly assist the speedy entering of records if the Society's electronic recording spreadsheets are used. These may be requested from any of the Recorders, or downloaded from the "London's Birds" page on our website under the heading "Bird Recording". Species should be listed in the sequence as used in this Report. Separate sheets should be used for each recording area.

Records of nationally rare species should be submitted via the local Recorder to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee as soon as possible after the sighting. Breeding records of rare species should be sent via the local Recorder to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel. Where requested, records will of course be treated in strict confidence.

Records of other rare and unusual species in the London Area are examined by the LNHS Rarities Committee before inclusion in the *London Bird Report*. Therefore, please complete and submit a LNHS *Unusual Species Description Form* (available from the Recorders or the Chair of the Editorial Board) or a brief description/copy of your field notes for these species. Please submit these as soon as possible after the sighting. **Species for which a full description or brief description/field notes are required are evident from the Guide for Contributors at the back of this report.**



Ken Osborne

## Gazetteer of Sites

The following gazetteer includes every site mentioned in *LBR* 2008 but omits historic sites - for the first time - and obvious place names of towns and villages. It seeks to identify the whereabouts of productive ornithological sites, well known or otherwise. Each site name is followed by the vice-county and a six-figure Ordnance Survey Grid Reference enabling sites to be pinpointed on the map above. The Grid Reference number either refers to the centre of the site or a point of particular ornithological interest. Readers should note that the inclusion of a site in this gazetteer does not imply public access; indeed some are strictly private or access is by permit only.

A gazetteer including all site names used in this and previous issues of the *LBR* will be maintained and posted on the LNHS website. There has been considerable confusion caused in the past by contributors of records using inconsistent and unfamiliar place names and we would urge all contributors to use the names listed in this gazetteer whenever appropriate. In doubtful cases, please submit the record along with an Ordnance Survey Grid Reference number.

Abney Park Cemetery LNR	(MX)	TQ333868	Bowyers Water	(HR)	TL368018
Addington Hills	(SY)	TQ352644	Bramley Bank	(SY)	TQ355635
Addington Vale Park	(SY)	TQ387616	Brasted	(KT)	TQ473552
Albany Park	(KT)	TQ478728	Brayside Farm	(MX)	TQ324988
Aldenham Res	(HR)	TQ169955	Breach Barns	(EX)	TL408023
Alexandra Park	(MX)	TQ302900	Brent Res	(MX)	TQ215870
Amwell GP	(HR)	TL378128	Brentford Ait	(SY)	TQ188778
Apps Court Farm	(SY)	TQ253652	Brentwood	(EX)	TQ594938
Arbrook Common	(SY)	TQ114682	Brickendonbury	(HR)	TL330104
Archbishop's Park	(IL)	TQ307792	Bricket Wood Common	(HR)	TL130010
Arthur Jacob NR	(BU)	TQ023758	Broad Colney Lakes	(HR)	TL178034
Ashley Pit	(HR)	TL370042	Broadfields Farm	(EX)	TQ584861
Ashtead Common	(SY)	TQ175595	Broadwater Lake	(MX)	TQ045892
Balls Wood	(HR)	TL344106	Brockley Cemetery	(KT)	TQ367749
Banbury Res	(EX)	TQ362915	Brooklands	(SY)	TQ068620
Banstead	(SY)	TQ255593	Brookmans Park	(HR)	TL245045
Banstead Downs	(SY)	TQ252610	Broombank	(SY)	TQ384580
Barking Bay	(EX)	TQ477820	Broomfield Park	(MX)	TQ304927
Barking Outfall	(EX)	TQ455815	Broxbourne GP	(HR)	TL379078
Barking Park	(EX)	TQ448850	Broxbourne Woods	(HR)	TL340080
Barnes Common	(SY)	TQ222758	Bucks Hill	(HR)	TL057002
Barwell Court Farm	(SY)	TQ170630	Bulphan Fen	(EX)	TQ633864
Batchworth Lake	(HR)	TQ058940	Bumbles Green	(EX)	TL405050
Batlers Green	(HR)	TQ158985	Burgess Park	(IL)	TQ335778
Battersea Park	(IL)	TQ282772	Bury Lake	(HR)	TQ053938
Bayford	(HR)	TL310084	Bushey Heath	(HR)	TQ153946
Bayfordbury	(HR)	TL313108	Bushy Park	(MX)	TQ160690
Beckenham Place Park	(KT)	TQ383708	Canada Water	(IL)	TQ355793
Beckton	(EX)	TQ443813	Cannon Hill Common	(SY)	TQ238683
Beddington Park	(SY)	TQ292654	Canons Farm	(SY)	TQ248577
Beddington SF	(SY)	TQ290662	Carneles Green	(HR)	TL350063
Bedfont Lakes CP	(MX)	TQ078726	Carpenders Park	(HR)	TQ130935
Bedford Park	(MX)	TQ210791	Carshalton Beeches	(SY)	TQ272638
Bedfords Park	(EX)	TQ518925	Carshalton Ponds	(SY)	TQ279645
Bedmond	(HR)	TL097037	Cassiobury Park	(HR)	TQ090970
Beech Farm GP	(HR)	TL190086	Cely Woods	(EX)	TQ560834
Belhus Woods CP	(EX)	TQ575825	Chafford Hundred	(EX)	TQ605795
Bell Bar	(HR)	TL255050	Chelsham	(SY)	TQ373589
Bencroft Wood	(HR)	TL330064	Chelsham Court Farm	(SY)	TQ387583
Berrybushes Wood	(HR)	TL069007	Cheshunt Marsh	(HR)	TL370008
Berwick Ponds	(EX)	TQ543835	Chess Valley Walk	(HR)	TQ058959
Beverley Park	(SY)	TQ221687	Chessington	(SY)	TQ180635
Bexley Woods	(KT)	TQ483737	Chigwell Res	(EX)	TQ460937
Birch Green	(HR)	TL292117	Chingford Plain	(EX)	TQ397950
Black Park	(BU)	TQ010836	Chipstead Lake	(KT)	TQ505565
Blackbirds Farm	(HR)	TQ147997	Chiswell Green	(HR)	TL125047
Blackbirds STW	(HR)	TL148000	Clackett Lane Services	(SY)	TQ423545
Blackshot's Field	(EX)	TQ628796	Clapham Common	(SY)	TQ286748
Bluewater Shopping Centre	(KT)	TQ580735	Claybury Park	(EX)	TQ435912
Bookham Common	(SY)	TQ130565	Claygate Common	(SY)	TQ161632
Bottom Wood	(HR)	TQ021937	Clissold Park	(MX)	TQ326864
Bow Creek Ecology Park	(EX)	TQ391811	Cobham	(SY)	TQ103604

Cole Green Tip	(HR)	TL265112	Fieldways Farm	(HR)	TQ057926
Colindale	(MX)	TQ212895	Finsbury Park	(MX)	TQ317875
College Farm	(KT)	TQ492733	Fir & Pond Woods	(MX)	TL276011
Colley Hill	(SY)	TQ247522	Fishers Green	(EX)	TL378026
Colnbrook	(BU)	TQ025775	Fishpond Wood LNR	(SY)	TQ218709
Colnbrook Landfill	(BU)	TQ025778	Foots Cray Meadows	(KT)	TQ480715
Colney Heath	(HR)	TL205062	Foots Cray Woods	(KT)	TQ479721
Colney Street	(HR)	TL157023	Forestdale	(SY)	TQ326626
Connaught Water	(EX)	TQ404953	Forty Hall, Enfield	(MX)	TQ337987
Coopers Green GP	(HR)	TL201097	Frays Farm Meadows	(MX)	TQ058860
Copped Hall	(EX)	TL430010	Frays Northern Lake	(MX)	TQ056868
Coppice Wood	(HR)	TL184047	Frays Wildfowl Lake	(MX)	TQ056864
Corbets Tey	(EX)	TQ570850	Friday Lake	(HR)	TL371020
Cornmill Meadows	(EX)	TL380011	Frogmore GP	(HR)	TL150033
Corporation Island	(SY)	TQ176746	Garston Manor	(HR)	TL114011
Coulsdon	(SY)	TQ296593	Gatton Park/Lake	(SY)	TQ271525
Cowheath Wood	(HR)	TL335080	Godstone SP	(SY)	TQ345518
Coxtie Green	(EX)	TQ567958	Goodmayes Park	(EX)	TQ467866
Crayford Marshes	(KT)	TQ532775	Goose Green	(HR)	TL353090
Creekmouth, Barking	(EX)	TQ452827	Grand Junction Res	(MX)	TQ130694
Crossness	(KT)	TQ478815	Grange Waters	(EX)	TQ609817
Croxley Green	(HR)	TQ070955	Grays Cemetery	(EX)	TQ629787
Croxley Hall GP	(HR)	TQ068943	Grays Gorge	(EX)	TQ591787
Croxley Moor	(HR)	TQ065956	Great Amwell	(HR)	TL368122
Croydon Crematorium	(SY)	TQ306677	Great Church Wood	(SY)	TQ369539
Crystal Palace Park	(KT)	TQ347707	Great Warley	(EX)	TQ582907
Cudham	(KT)	TQ446596	Greatness Pits	(KT)	TQ535578
Dagenham Chase	(EX)	TQ514858	Green Street	(HR)	TQ195987
Dagenham Riverside	(EX)	TQ489817	Greenhithe	(KT)	TQ585753
Dagenham, Fords	(EX)	TQ495825	Greenland Dock	(IL)	TQ361791
Danson Park	(KT)	TQ473748	Greenland Pier	(IL)	TQ366793
Dartford Marshes	(KT)	TQ544774	Greenwich Park	(KT)	TQ390775
Davy Down	(EX)	TQ592803	Greenwich Peninsula		
Dobbs Weir	(HR)	TL384043	Ecology Park	(KT)	TQ400793
Duck Wood	(EX)	TQ555923	Grey Goose Farm	(EX)	TQ629807
Dulwich Park	(SY)	TQ335735	Grovelands Park	(MX)	TQ305944
Durants Park	(MX)	TQ357968	Gunpowder Park	(EX)	TQ383994
East India Dock Basin	(MX)	TQ391808	Guy Lodge Farm	(MX)	TQ331999
East Iver Lakes	(BU)	TQ046803	Haberdashers' Aske's School	(HR)	TQ168967
East Molesey	(SY)	TQ143677	Hackney Marsh	(MX)	TQ366861
Eastwick	(HR)	TL435117	Hainault Forst	(EX)	TQ476932
Elmbridge Leisure Centre	(SY)	TQ107678	Hall Marsh	(EX)	TL373017
Elstree Aerodrome	(HR)	TQ158968	Ham Lands	(SY)	TQ165725
Epping Forest	(EX)	TQ420985	Hampermill Lake	(HR)	TQ095942
Epsom Common	(SY)	TQ190605	Hampton Court Park	(MX)	TQ166676
Epsom Downs	(SY)	TQ211580	Hampton FB	(MX)	TQ131693
Esher Common	(SY)	TQ135625	Hangman's Wood	(EX)	TQ631793
Essendon	(HR)	TL277087	Harlington Fields	(MX)	TQ092777
Ewell	(SY)	TQ220627	Harold Court Woods	(EX)	TQ558914
Fairlop Waters	(EX)	TQ459905	Harrow Lodge Park	(EX)	TQ529865
Fairmile Common	(SY)	TQ125617	Hatfield Aerodrome	(HR)	TL205085
Ferry Hill Farm	(MX)	TQ282981	Hatfield Garden Village	(HR)	TL217098

Hatfield Park	(HR)	TL240080	King George VI Res	(MX)	TQ041732
Havering CP	(EX)	TQ505930	King George's Park	(SY)	TQ256737
Hayes Hill Farm	(EX)	TL383033	Kingcup Farm	(BU)	TQ038857
Headley Heath	(SY)	TQ200535	King's College Sports Ground	(SY)	TQ204675
Heavers Meadow	(SY)	TQ335675	King's Wood	(SY)	TQ352604
Helicon Lake	(HR)	TQ039909	Kingston Cemetery	(SY)	TQ190687
Hersham GP	(SY)	TQ128663	Knighthon Wood	(EX)	TQ409931
Hertford Heath	(HR)	TL349107	Knockholt Pound	(KT)	TQ486598
Hertingfordbury	(HR)	TL305122	Lake Farm CP	(MX)	TQ091803
High Beach	(EX)	TQ407976	Lakeside Retail Park	(EX)	TQ582789
Highams Park	(EX)	TQ393922	Lakeside, Enfield	(MX)	TQ298963
Highams Park Industrial Est	(EX)	TQ383918	Lambourne End	(EX)	TQ477946
Hilfield Park Res	(HR)	TQ158959	Lamorbey Park	(KT)	TQ465731
Hilly Fields Park	(EX)	TQ325984	Langley Park	(BU)	TQ013814
Hinchley Wood	(SY)	TQ157650	Larks Wood	(EX)	TQ382925
Hither Green Cemetery	(KT)	TQ398729	Lavender Hill Cemetery	(MX)	TQ318983
Hogsmill SF	(SY)	TQ197682	Lavender Pond, Rotherhithe	(KT)	TQ362803
Holmethorpe SP	(SY)	TQ295515	Leavesden Green	(HR)	TL097002
Holyfield Hall Farm	(EX)	TL384038	Lee Valley Camp Site	(EX)	TQ380970
Holyfield Lake	(EX)	TL378045	Letchmore Heath	(HR)	TQ155977
Holyfield Marsh	(EX)	TL374039	Letty Green	(HR)	TL286109
Home Park	(MX)	TQ166676	Leyton Flats	(EX)	TQ398867
Hook	(SY)	TQ180645	Limpsfield Chart	(SY)	TQ445523
Hooks Marsh Lake	(EX)	TL373023	Lion Gorge	(EX)	TQ599786
Hornchurch CP	(EX)	TQ535825	Lippitts Hill	(EX)	TQ396972
Horsendon Hill	(MX)	TQ162844	Little Berkhamsted	(HR)	TL286077
Horton CP	(SY)	TQ190627	Little Britain Lake	(MX)	TQ049813
Horton Fields	(SY)	TQ202625	Little Venice	(IL)	TQ263818
Horton GP	(BU)	TQ015764	Littlebrook Lake	(KT)	TQ553756
Hounslow Heath	(MX)	TQ123745	Littleheath Woods	(SY)	TQ352627
Howe Green	(HR)	TL285094	Littleton Lake	(MX)	TQ063678
Hunton Bridge	(HR)	TL082006	Lloyd Park	(SY)	TQ397647
Hurst Park	(SY)	TQ143690	Lofthall Farm	(EX)	TQ653819
Hutchinson's Bank	(SY)	TQ383613	London Colney	(HR)	TL177040
Hyde Park	(IL)	TQ270803	London Wetland Centre	(SY)	TQ228770
Hythe End	(SY)	TQ020718	Long Coppice	(BU)	TQ031849
Ickenham Marsh	(MX)	TQ082855	Long Ditton	(SY)	TQ174664
Ingrebourne Valley	(EX)	TQ538843	Long Running	(EX)	TQ434988
Island Barn Res	(SY)	TQ140670	Lonsdale Rd Res	(SY)	TQ218775
Isle of Dogs	(MX)	TQ385784	Lullingstone Park	(KT)	TQ520645
Isleworth Ait	(SY)	TQ167757	Lynsters Farm	(HR)	TQ034920
Jersey Farm	(HR)	TL174097	Lynsters Lake	(HR)	TQ038916
Joyce Green Hospital	(KT)	TQ547760	Magdalen Laver	(EX)	TL509083
Joyden's Wood	(KT)	TQ500715	Malden Rushett	(SY)	TQ169615
Kelsey Park	(KT)	TQ376688	Manor Farm	(KT)	TQ494542
Kempton Park NR	(MX)	TQ116706	Maple Cross	(HR)	TQ030925
Kemsing	(KT)	TQ546587	Maple Lodge NR	(HR)	TQ036924
Kenley Aerodrome	(SY)	TQ328587	Mar Dyke Valley	(EX)	TQ600805
Kensington Gdns	(IL)	TQ270803	Maryon Wilson Park	(KT)	TQ419785
Keston Ponds	(KT)	TQ426645	Mayesbrook Park	(EX)	TQ464846
Kew Gardens	(SY)	TQ182769	Mereway Nature Park	(SY)	TQ150733
King George V Res	(EX)	TQ374964	Merry Hill	(HR)	TQ136943



Mickleham	(SY)	TQ172532	Panshanger Aerodrome	(HR)	TL274129
Middlesex FB	(MX)	TQ359865	Panshanger Park	(HR)	TL283130
Mill Green	(HR)	TL243099	Panshanger Stables	(HR)	TL290133
Mill Wood	(EX)	TQ595788	Park Farm, Chessington	(SY)	TQ181623
Millward's Park	(HR)	TL239065	Park Farm, Enfield	(MX)	TQ292983
Minet CP	(MX)	TQ110801	Park Hill Park	(SY)	TQ329651
Mitcham Common	(SY)	TQ290675	Parkside Farm/Res	(MX)	TQ303982
Molesey Heath	(SY)	TQ132672	Parlours Park	(EX)	TQ480850
Monks Green	(HR)	TL335085	Plumridge Farm	(MX)	TQ277991
Moor Mill	(HR)	TL145030	Police Pit	(HR)	TL371025
Moor Park GC	(HR)	TQ075935	Poor's Field	(MX)	TQ087897
Moorhall Lake	(MX)	TQ048889	Portsmouth Rd FB	(SY)	TQ173675
Moorhouse	(SY)	TQ433532	Potters Crouch	(HR)	TL116052
Morden Hall Park	(SY)	TQ264687	Prae Wood	(HR)	TL121068
Mount Vernon Hospital	(HR)	TQ077920	Prince George's PF	(SY)	TQ235688
Mudchute Farm	(EX)	TQ381786	Prince's Coverts	(SY)	TQ160610
Nashes Farm	(HR)	TL180096	Priors GC	(EX)	TQ536949
Navestock Heath	(EX)	TQ537973	Putney Heath	(SY)	TQ230739
Nazeing GP	(EX)	TL385072	Pymmes Park	(MX)	TQ337928
Netherhall GP	(EX)	TL394083	Pyrgo Park	(EX)	TQ524935
Netherhouse Farm	(EX)	TQ387975	Queen Elizabeth II Bridge	(EX)	TQ570764
Newgate Street	(EX)	TL302050	Queen Elizabeth II Res	(SY)	TQ120670
Noak Hill	(EX)	TQ540937	Queen Mother Res	(BU)	TQ017773
Nonsuch Park	(SY)	TQ232638	Queen Mary Res	(MX)	TQ070695
Norbury Park	(SY)	TQ310699	Queen's Wood	(MX)	TQ288886
Nore Hill	(SY)	TQ380574	Radlett Aero GP	(HR)	TL155035
North Downs GC	(SY)	TQ374550	Rainham GP	(EX)	TQ549829
North Medburn Farm	(HR)	TQ173972	Rainham Marshes	(EX)	TQ525800
North Metropolitan Pit	(HR)	TL369033	Rammey Marsh	(MX)	TQ374996
North Mymms Park	(HR)	TL215045	Raphaels Park	(EX)	TQ518902
Northaw Great Wood	(HR)	TL285044	Raven's Ait	(SY)	TQ176680
Northfleet	(KT)	TQ622749	Ravensbury Park	(SY)	TQ268681
Northolt RAF Aerodrome	(MX)	TQ100850	Rectory Wood, Denham	(BU)	TQ035871
Norwood Grove	(SY)	TQ333704	Redwell Wood Farm	(HR)	TL207026
Nower Wood	(SY)	TQ195547	Regent's Park	(IL)	TQ281828
Oak Hill Park	(HR)	TQ278949	Reigate Heath	(SY)	TQ238504
Oaklands College	(HR)	TL183077	Richmond Park	(SY)	TQ200730
Oakwood Park	(MX)	TQ302953	Rickmansworth Aquadrome	(HR)	TQ057940
Old Parkbury	(HR)	TL163023	Riddlesdown	(SY)	TQ326602
Old Slade Lake	(BU)	TQ040780	Ridge	(HR)	TL219004
Ongar Park Wood	(EX)	TL495025	Roding Valley Meadows	(EX)	TQ435956
Orlitts North Lake	(BU)	TQ041780	Roe Hyde	(HR)	TL215070
Orsett	(EX)	TQ635817	Rotherhithe	(IL)	TQ358794
Otford	(KT)	TQ525590	Rowley Green	(MX)	TQ217960
Otterspool	(HR)	TQ130988	Roydon	(EX)	TL410100
Oxhey Hall	(HR)	TQ103943	Ruislip Lido	(MX)	TQ089891
Oxhey Park	(HR)	TQ114955	Ruislip Woods	(MX)	TQ094890
Oxleas Wood	(KT)	TQ450686	Rushett Farm	(SY)	TQ173608
Oylers Farm	(HR)	TL350005	Russia Dock Woodland/ Stave Hill	(IL)	TQ362799
Pages Farm	(EX)	TQ557902	Rye House Station	(HR)	TL385098
Pages Wood	(EX)	TQ560895	Rye Meads RSPB	(HR)	TL383103
Painshill Park	(SY)	TQ100602			

Salisbury Hall Farm	(HR)	TL195028	Tenchleys	(SY)	TQ419512
Selsdon Park	(SY)	TQ350615	Terrells Heath Wood	(EX)	TQ638792
Selsdon Woods	(SY)	TQ362616	Thames Barrier	(EX)	TQ415795
Sevenoaks WR	(KT)	TQ522570	Thames Ditton	(SY)	TQ166670
Seventy Acres Lake	(HR)	TL374030	The Ledges, Esher	(SY)	TQ122628
Sewardstone Marsh	(EX)	TQ379985	The Paddock LNR	(MX)	TQ349895
Shenley	(HR)	TL192004	Theobalds Park	(HR)	TL345005
Shenleybury	(HR)	TL183019	Thorndon CP	(EX)	TQ608915
Shenstone Park	(KT)	TQ508750	Thorney CP	(BU)	TQ048790
Shirley Park GC	(SY)	TQ350650	Thorpe Water Park	(SY)	TQ030681
Sloeman's Farm	(MX)	TL324001	Thurrock College PF	(EX)	TQ636789
Smallford Farm	(HR)	TL191066	Thurrock Rugby Club	(EX)	TQ634802
Sopwell Mill	(HR)	TL154054	Titsey Park	(SY)	TQ403548
South Hatfield	(HR)	TL227065	Tolworth Court Farm	(SY)	TQ200650
South Lodge Farm	(MX)	TQ299964	Tooting Common	(SY)	TQ293720
South Norwood CP	(SY)	TQ353684	Tottenham Cemetery	(MX)	TQ332911
South Nutfield	(SY)	TQ305493	Tottenham Marshes	(MX)	TQ354910
South Park	(EX)	TQ452863	Totteridge Valley	(MX)	TQ244952
South Weald	(EX)	TQ572938	Tower Hamlets Cemetery Pk	(MX)	TQ370823
South Mimms	(HR)	TL222014	Trent Park	(MX)	TQ290970
Southmere Lake	(KT)	TQ476801	Trevereux	(SY)	TQ433509
Southwark Park	(IL)	TQ352789	Troy Mill Lake	(HR)	TQ039905
Spencer Road Wetland	(SY)	TQ279665	Turnford Marsh GP	(HR)	TL370044
Springwell Lake	(MX)	TQ041925	Tykeswater Lake	(HR)	TQ172962
Springwell Reedbed	(MX)	TQ041924	Tylers Common	(EX)	TQ568907
St James's Park	(IL)	TQ294798	Tylers Hall Farm	(EX)	TQ563908
Staines Res	(MX)	TQ051731	Tyttenhanger GP	(HR)	TQ191052
Stamford Green	(SY)	TQ196608	Upshire	(EX)	TL414014
Stanborough Lakes	(HR)	TL230108	Valentines Park	(EX)	TQ438878
Stanstead Abbotts GP	(HR)	TL391109	Verulamium Lake	(HR)	TL140070
Stanwell Moor	(MX)	TQ040743	Verulamium Park	(HR)	TL138069
Stocker's Lake	(HR)	TQ046935	Vicarage Farm	(MX)	TQ305975
Stocker's Farm	(HR)	TQ052933	Waddon Ponds	(SY)	TQ309650
Stoke Newington Res	(MX)	TQ326876	Walthamstow FB	(EX)	TQ355883
Stondon Massey	(EX)	TL585004	Walthamstow Marsh	(EX)	TQ350878
Stone	(KT)	TQ576746	Walthamstow Res	(EX)	TQ353890
Strawberry Hill Pond	(EX)	TQ412968	Walton Downs	(SY)	TQ220573
Sunbury	(SY)	TQ096700	Walton Res	(SY)	TQ122685
Sunshine Plain	(EX)	TQ421991	Wandle Creek	(SY)	TQ256751
Surbiton Cemetery	(SY)	TQ192682	Wandle Meadow Nature Park	(SY)	TQ264710
Surrey Water	(IL)	TQ356800	Wandsworth Common	(SY)	TQ275740
Sutton at Hone Lakes	(KT)	TQ560700	Wanstead Flats	(EX)	TQ410864
Sutton Ecology Centre	(SY)	TQ278646	Wanstead Park	(EX)	TQ415875
Swanley Bar	(MX)	TL256030	Warley Gap	(EX)	TQ595910
Swanscombe Marshes	(KT)	TQ605760	Warley Place EWT	(EX)	TQ583906
Sybourn School	(EX)	TQ368876	Warlingham	(SY)	TQ358583
Sydenham Hill Wood	(SY)	TQ341722	Warren Gorge	(EX)	TQ597794
Symondshyre Farm	(HR)	TL198113	Waterend	(HR)	TL231042
Tagg's Island	(MX)	TQ146692	Watermeads	(SY)	TQ274677
Tatling End	(BU)	TQ020870	Waterworks NR	(EX)	TQ363868
Teddington Lock	(MX)	TQ166716	Weald Park	(EX)	TQ572945
Ten Acre Wood	(MX)	TQ099838	Welham Green	(HR)	TL235055

West End Common	(SY) TQ125632	Wimbledon Park Lake	(SY) TQ247724
West Ewell	(SY) TQ210637	Withy Bridge	(BU) TQ023795
West Ham Park	(EX) TQ400842	Woldingham	(SY) TQ374556
West Hyde Fields	(HR) TQ030910	Wood Green Res	(MX) TQ304900
West Thurrock Marshes	(EX) TQ583767	Wood Hall Estate	(HR) TQ184994
Westerham	(KT) TQ495540	Woodford GC	(EX) TQ395928
Weston Green	(SY) TQ156662	Woodlands Park Lake	(BU) TQ038830
Whippendell Woods	(HR) TQ075980	Woodoaks Farm	(HR) TQ033933
Whitehouse Plain	(EX) TQ403968	Woodside	(HR) TL255068
Whitewebbs Wood	(MX) TQ325995	Woolwich Ferry	(EX) TQ434793
Whyteleafe	(SY) TQ337582	Worcester Park former SW	(SY) TQ230655
Wilderness Island	(SY) TQ282653	Wormwood Scrubs	(MX) TQ221818
Wildhill	(HR) TL264067	Wraysbury GP	(BU) TQ015735
William Girling Res	(EX) TQ367945	Wraysbury Res	(MX) TQ025745
Wimbledon Common	(SY) TQ247723	Yiewsley Lake	(MX) TQ050804

## Review of the Year 2008

Scarce birds seen in London this year included **Glossy Ibis** (3rd), **Aquatic Warbler** (13th), **Lesser Scaup** (3rd), **Cattle Egret**, **Great Egret**, **Marsh Warbler**, **Arctic Redpoll**, **Ortolan Bunting**, **Serin**, **Richard's Pipit**, **Temminck's Stint**, **Pectoral Sandpiper**, **Red-footed Falcon**, **White-winged Black Tern**, **Yellow-browed Warbler**, **Hoopoe**, **Golden Oriole**, **Twite**, **Red-backed Shrike**, **Great Grey Shrike**, **Manx Shearwater**, **Fulmar**, **Gannet**, **Guillemot**, **Velvet Scoter** and **Great, Long-tailed and Arctic Skua**. There were some breeding successes, with **Black-necked Grebe** raising young, **Hawfinch** breeding being confirmed for the first time since 2000, and the first ever breeding of **Great Black-backed Gull**. Unfortunately, the breeding success of others declined, including **Grey Partridge**, **Turtle Dove**, **Cuckoo**, **Tree Pipit**, **Yellow Wagtail**, **Willow Warbler**, **Spotted Flycatcher**, **Corn Bunting** and **Reed Bunting**.

### January

At the opening of the year 37 **Brent Geese** still remained at Rainham from the large 2007 flock, with some staying until 16th. There were still **Scaup**, **Shag**, **Great Northern Diver**, and **Iceland and Glaucous Gulls** at the West London reservoirs, **Bitterns** at Amwell and the Wetland Centre, and **Bearded Tits** and a **Ruff** at Rainham. By the 2nd, the first 2008 birds arrived, with two **White-fronted Geese** and a **Slavonian Grebe**, plus the first of only two **Lapland Bunting** to be seen this year at Rainham. A **Glaucous Gull** also made an appearance at Beddington. The first **Kittiwakes** of the year were at Rainham on 3rd, and the first **Little Gulls**. An **Iceland Gull** also appeared there and was reported several times until 29th March. The next few days saw **Glaucous Gulls** at Beddington, QEII Res, Broadwater Lake and Island Barn Res, while the Thames Marshes had peak counts of 23 **Avocet** and 410 **Black-tailed Godwit**. The first **Red-breasted Merganser** of the year was at Banbury Res on 10th, when there was also a flock of 357 **Fieldfare** at Belhus Woods CP, a sign of the much larger numbers that appeared in 2008. At Rainham there was the unusual sight of 12 **Turnstone** on 12th, and a **Glaucous Gull** visited Colnbrook. On 15th, a **Velvet Scoter** was at Q Mother Res, and the next day a **Raven** was seen at Panshanger Park being mobbed by two Carrion Crows; this was the first of a dramatic increase in Raven records, to reach 16 for the year. A flock of 100 **Yellowhammer** at Ridlands was a welcome sight on 20th. The month ended with 35 **White-fronted Geese** east over Chafford Hundred, 17 **Knot** at Rainham, a **Little Gull** at Amwell, a **Garganey** at the Wetland Centre and at Amwell, and an **Iceland Gull** at Colnbrook. As often, there were peak counts of ducks this month, with 216 **Gadwall** and 219 **Pochard** at Stocker's Lake, 850 **Common Teal** at Crossness, and 30 **Pintail** at Rainham. The continuing cull of **Ruddy Duck** meant that the peak count this year was only 78 at Staines Res, compared to 457 in 2006. **Black-necked Grebe** at William Girling Res reached a peak of 29, and there may have been as many as 33 wintering **Blackcap** in our area.

### February

On 5th, eight **Waxwing** were seen at Dartford, and the next day the first **Marsh Harrier** of the year appeared at Rainham. **Scaup** are not unusual in February but a male at Mayesbrook Park on 8th was unusual. There was also a large flock of 500 **Stock Dove** at Horton GP, feeding on harvested grain. On 9th, the first

**Oystercatcher** of the year was at Crossness and the next day the first **Red-throated Diver** at Rainham, one of only two records this year. By the 12th, a **Shag** was at Staines Res and a **Hen Harrier** at Otterspool. A **Glaucous Gull** and an **Iceland Gull** were at Withybridge on 14th, and more **Iceland Gulls** followed at Beddington and at QEII Res. At Rainham, six **White-fronted Geese** were seen on 16th (and on 17th) while the only **Ring-billed Gull** of the year was at the Isle of Dogs. A flock of 15 **Brent Geese** was a surprising sight at Hilfield Park Res on 19th. Q Mother Res had an **Iceland Gull** in the roost on 23rd, and two days later there was a **Glaucous Gull** at Colnbrook. The month ended with three sites reporting very early **Sand Martins** on 29th. Peak counts of 214 **Redshank** were at West Thurrock Marsh, as were 650 **Eurasian Wigeon** at Rainham, 302 **Shoveler** at the Wetland Centre, 362 **Tufted Duck** at Walthamstow Res, and 49 **Common Goldeneye** at Wraybury GP.

## March

An **Iceland Gull** was in the roost at Q Mother Res on 3rd, and there were 200 **Pied Wagtails** roosting at Tolworth Broadway on 5th. On 7th, the first **Little Ringed Plover** of the year arrived at KGV Res, and there were more signs of spring with a **Northern Wheatear** at Mayesbrook Park on 11th. On 15th, spring passage continued with **Little Gulls** and **Garganey** arriving, but still signs of winter with a **Bewick's Swan** on a flooded field at Tyttenhamger GP. This continued on 16th with the last **Smew** at Staines Res - but the arrival of the first **House Martins** and **Swallows**. The next day, one of the few **Waxwings** of the first winter period was at Woodford Green. More spring signs on 19th, with the first **Osprey** (at the rather unusual venue of Balham), and a few days later the first **Willow Warbler**, but also 29 **Brent Geese** at QEII Res. The last **Bittern** was at Amwell on 23rd, and the next day a **Black-throated Diver** (one of only two records this year) was at Danson Park, staying for four days. There was also a **Shag** at Seventy Acres Lake. To end off the month, the first **Ring Ouzel** and **Yellow Wagtail** appeared, and **Common Scoter** passed through including a flock of 15 at Rainham, where there was also a **Spotted Redshank**. On 29th, four **Scaup** appeared at Staines Res, and the next day there was a **Stone Curlew** at Rainham - one of only four records this year.

## April

Spring passage was now well under way, with **Reed Warbler**, **Garden Warbler**, **Sedge Warbler**, **Hobby**, **Common Tern**, **Common Redstart** and **Tree Pipit** all appearing in the first seven days. The second week added **Lesser** and **Common Whitethroat**, **Cuckoo**, **Whimbrel**, **Nightingale** and **Arctic Tern**. The only **Cattle Egret** of the year was found at William Girling Res on 12th and remained to 17th. Wader spring passage produced **Greenshank**, **Ruff**, **Bar-tailed Godwit** and **Sanderling**, and another **Stone Curlew** - this one at Rainham. On 17th, four **Black-necked Grebe** - all adults in summer plumage - must have been a nice sight at Fairlop. A **Black-throated Diver** circled over Q Mother Res on 19th, and a **Hen Harrier** flew over Beddington on 21st. By the end of the third week, **Turtle Dove**, **Grasshopper Warbler**, **Common Swift**, **Wood Warbler**, **Pied Flycatcher**, **Whinchat** and **Black Tern** had all arrived. The month ended with an astonishing count of over 195 **Arctic Terns** over Staines Res on 23rd, the last **Brambling** of the winter at Potters Bar, and the last **Fieldfare**, as well as the first **Wood Sandpiper** and **Little Tern**. The only **Hoopoe** of the year was at Brentwood on 26th, and a **Richard's Pipit** was at Rainham the next day.



## May

The month started with the last sighting of a **Great Northern Diver** at Q Mother Res and the first **Spotted Flycatcher** at Wandsworth Common. On the 5th, a **Spoonbill** flew over Amwell and a **Richard's Pipit** (the second of only two records this year) was found at Crossness. A **Honey Buzzard** was over Regent's Park on 7th, when there was also a peak spring count of 11 **Greenshank** at Rainham. A **Stone Curlew** standing in front of a hide at the Wetland Centre was probably an unexpected sight on 10th. The next day, there was an even bigger surprise when the only **Golden Oriole** of the year was at Cornmill Meadows and three **Temminck's Stint** were seen at Rainham. The stints pleased many London birdwatchers by staying for six days, four being seen together on one day. On 13th, a **Quail** was heard at Orsett (one of only two recorded this year) and a **Little Stint** appeared at Horton GP. The next day, a **Little Stint** was at Rainham and seen off and on for a few days, with two there for two days. There was more excitement when a **Red-footed Falcon** appeared at Seventy Acres Lake on 15th, staying for a week; on its last day here, 21 **Hobby** were reported too. A **Red-backed Shrike** was at Greenwich Peninsula and a very late **Redwing** was at Regent's Park on 24th. The next two days were **Fulmar** days, with one at Beddington followed the next day by three sightings at the Thames: two birds at Rainham, three at Greenhithe and one at Dartford; these were the only Fulmar sightings of the year. On 27th, four **Common Crossbill** were seen over Cassiobury Park, which marked the start of an influx in which they were reported from over fifty places. The month ended with a **Honey Buzzard** over Stoke Newington Res and then another **Red-footed Falcon** at Colnbrook, but this one only stayed for twenty minutes.

## June

The month started with 550 **Woodpigeon** flying over Wimbledon Common. Then a **Great Egret** appeared at Rainham on 4th, being seen again on 7th and with two there on 8th. Generally this was a quiet month, with another **Little Stint** being seen at Beddington, an **Osprey** at Banstead, a **Quail** at Stanwell Moor, and a **Red-necked Grebe** at Staines for a few days.

## July

This is normally the time for return passage to start: a **Spotted Redshank** was at Rainham and, soon after, **Whimbrels** began to appear; **Little Ringed Plovers** too, with a peak of 15 at Rainham. On 19th, a **Common Scoter** was at Q Mother Res, and the next day the third and last **Red-necked Grebe** of the year was at Island Barn Res. A **Honey Buzzard** was over Hertford on 21st and the first **Turnstones** of this passage were at Staines. A sign of how things have changed was a count of 56 **Little Egrets** at Rainham on 23rd! Towards the end of the month, there were the first **Golden Plover** of the autumn at Rainham, a peak count of 32 **Green Sandpiper** at Beddington and 12 **Greenshank** at Rainham.

## August

This is the normal time of the year for **Pochard** and **Tufted Duck** to gather together while they moult, and the peak counts were of 228 **Pochard** at Hilfield Park Res and 1,161 **Tufted Duck** at KGV Res. A rather more unusual "flock" were 14 **Little Terns**

which appeared at Staines on 2nd; this was also the day that a **Red-backed Shrike** was seen at Richmond Park. On the 10th, Crossness was graced with a **White-winged Black Tern** which stayed for five days and was also seen from the Essex side of the Thames. A **Shag** was at Hilfield Park Res from the 15th for a few days, and there was a peak count of 101 **Yellow-legged Gulls** at KGV1 Res. There were more returning waders, including the last **Wood Sandpiper** of the year at Beddington on 18th, although it stayed until 29th. The first returning **Osprey** was at Staines on 21st, and then on the next two days there was an **Arctic Skua** seen from a bus at Stroud Green, followed by three **Arctic Skuas** flying up-river at Northfleet. Q Mother Res was then the place to be, with a **Shag** there on 26th staying until the 28th, when the first **Wryneck** of the year appeared there too. The next day, a **Shag** flew over Beddington and there was a peak count of 26 **Common Sandpipers** at KGV Res. The 30th was quite a red-letter day, with the only **Ortolan Bunting** of the year seen for just 15 minutes at Rainham, the only **White Stork** over Maida Vale and a **Stone Curlew** over Sewardstone. The month ended with a **Spoonbill** over Alexandra Palace. By "the end of August" a **European Nightjar** appeared in Upper Norwood, staying until 10th September.

## September

The month began with a **Grey Phalarope** at Q Mother Res on 2nd, part of an influx of about 20 birds on to the south and west coasts, but there was an even more startling **Aquatic Warbler** at Rainham on 3rd - this was reported up to the 8th although it was elusive. The next day, a **Grey Phalarope** was at Q Mary Res. From the 7th, there was a flurry of sea-bird sightings, with **Common Scoter** seen at Staines and the Wetland Centre, **Manx Shearwater** at Barking Bay and Crossness, **Arctic Skua** at Brent, **Great Skua** at Staines, and a small **Skua sp** at Amwell which was quite likely a Long-tailed Skua. There were also **Wrynecks** at Fairlop, Lake Farm CP and Beddington, 33 **Knot** over Q Mother Res as well as the last **Sanderling** of the year, **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Great Egret** and three **Brent Geese** at Rainham, and the first returning **Merlin** over Regent's Park. Eleven **Whinchat** at Rainham on 10th were the highest count of the year, and the next day there was a huge count of 151 **Black Tern** flying by Thames Barrier Park. More **Wryneck** were at Fairlop and Tottenham Marsh on 12th, plus the last **Wood Warbler** of the year at Alexandra Palace. On the 14th, the only **Guillemot** of the year was found on the Thames at Chiswick and the only **Marsh Warbler** appeared at Rainham. These rather eclipsed the seven **Tree Pipit** recorded over Regent's Park, the **Honey Buzzard** over Clissold Park and a **Little Stint** at Fairlop. Signs of autumn on 16th, when the first returning **Redwing** was at South Norwood CP. But over the next two days, there was a **Wryneck** at Rainham, which stayed for a week with two birds on 20th, and another at Greenwich Peninsula. On 19th, there was a **Honey Buzzard** over Banstead and the first **Brambling** of the autumn over the Wetland Centre. The next day, there was a **Honey Buzzard** over Beddington and the last **Cuckoo** and **Common Swift** of the year at Rainham. On the 21st, a **Great Egret** stayed at Beddington for an hour and the last **Black Terns** of the year were at William Girling Res. More sea-birds from 22nd, with **Gannets** at Isleworth and Amwell, and a **Common Scoter** at Q Mother Res, where two days later there was a **Long-tailed Skua**, briefly - the only one this year. From now to the end of the month, there was the first **Fieldfare** of the autumn at Mar Dyke Valley, and the last **Little Ringed Plover**, **Turtle Dove**, **Sandwich Tern**, **Tree Pipit**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, **Pied Flycatcher** and **Garden Warbler**. Three more **Honey Buzzards** were seen, at Langley Park, Beddington and

Raynes Park. A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at Rainham on 28th and a **Great Grey Shrike** at Brent, both for a few days and the only records this year. At Warringham, a **Wryneck** found in a garden died soon after. September ended with another **Gannet** - this one at QEII Res.

## October

This is a month noted for large groups of **Shoveler**, and the peak count was 238 at Staines. Also during the month were the last of most summer visitors, with **Spotted Flycatcher**, **Sedge Warbler**, **Arctic Tern**, **Garganey**, **Yellow Wagtail**, **Common Redstart**, **Marsh Harrier**, **Hobby**, **Osprey**, **Whinchat** and **House Martin** all being seen. A **Manx Shearwater** was a surprise discovery in bushes at a housing estate in Paddington; it was released on 1st at Rotherhithe. A smart male **Lesser Scaup** appeared at Wraysbury GP on 5th and then moved to Q Mother Res, where it stayed until 15th. On 6th, there was a **Dartford Warbler** at Richmond Park, the start of a wintering group of maybe up to six birds here. More scarce warblers were at Rainham on 8th, when two **Yellow-browed Warblers** were found; a **Shag** was also seen. A **Yellow-browed Warbler** was again seen at Rainham on 10th, the same day that an **Arctic Skua** appeared there. The only **Ferruginous Duck** of the year was at Amwell from 11th, staying until the end of the month. There was also a **Scaup** at Amwell on 11th, and two **Bearded Tits** were seen off and on to the end of the year at Rainham. A **Woodlark** appeared at Richmond Park on 12th, but the bird of the month was the **Glossy Ibis** seen flying over Rainham on 21st. The next day, three **Serin** were seen at Rainham, some remaining until the end of the year, with a maximum of seven birds. A **Continental Coal Tit** was located at Tower Hamlets Cemetery on 22nd for two days, and perhaps a second bird as well. **Dartford Warbler** made an appearance at Rainham and there were one to three birds here until December. Passage of 35 **Skylarks** over Wimbledon on 25th was notable. Two **Twite** were at Rainham on 26th, and the first returning **Great Northern Diver** at QEII Res the next day. On 28th, a large movement of **Wood pigeons** took place, with 2,600 over Streatham Common and smaller numbers elsewhere. The next day, three **Woodlark** flew over the Wetland Centre. The month ended with a **Hen Harrier** flying over Richmond Park, 46 **Skylark** over the Wetland Centre and a passage of 1,090 **Redwing** over Leyton Flats - signs of the larger numbers that occurred at this end of the year.

## November

The month opened with a **Hen Harrier** at Northolt and the second **Red-throated Diver** of the year at Rainham, where there were also two **Brent Geese**. The next day, there was a **Slavonian Grebe** at KGV Res and another **Twite** at Rainham, which was recorded on seven other dates during the month. **Bittern** returned at Amwell, and more signs of winter were at Rainham, where four **Bewick's Swans** appeared, as well as the first **Snow Bunting** of the year and an **Arctic Skua**. The skua was reported several times until 23rd, with two birds reported on two dates. A **Grey Phalarope** was at Hilfield Park Res for three days. On 5th, three **Waxwings** were at Marshalswick, and a large flock of 400 **Lesser Redpoll** appeared at Thorndon CP as well as some **Mealy Redpoll**. Another **Slavonian Grebe** was at Staines on 7th, when there was also a **Scaup** at Q Mother Res and **Common Scoter** at Walton Res. Four more **Waxwing** were at Bulphan Fen on 9th, and four swans east over nearby

Ockendon were either **Bewick's** or **Whooper Swans**. Crossness had two **Arctic Skua** on 11th, when there were two **Scaup** at Q Mother Res, and **Bearded Tit** at Rainham peaked at five. On the 13th, an obliging **Grey Phalarope** graced a pond at Hampton Court Park, staying for three days. This was also the day a **Curlew Sandpiper** turned up at Rainham and the last **Swallow** of the year was seen. Four **Scaup** were on KGV Res on 14th, when eight **Brent Geese** were at Crossness. A **Snow Bunting** appeared at Rainham on 18th, and a very late **Reed Warbler** was at the Wetland Centre on 20th. Four more **Scaup** were at Staines on 22nd, and a **Common Scoter** was at KGV Res. On 24th, two **Bewick's Swan** were at Hilfield Park Res, and two swans over Amwell on the same day were either **Bewick's** or **Whooper Swan**. The 25th saw the last **Willow Warbler** at Rainham and a **Little Stint** there the next day. The month ended with more swans - a group of seven **Bewick's** or **Whooper Swans** flying over the Wetland Centre. During the month, there was a high count of 34 **Common Goldeneye** at KGV Res and 27 **Curlew** at Rainham.

## December

The month began with an **Arctic Redpoll** being located amongst the now very large flocks of **Lesser Redpolls** at Thorndon Country Park; more **Mealy Redpolls** were also identified amongst the flocks. The next day, two **Scaup** were at Wraysbury GP, but on 3rd there was the unusual arrival of a flock of **Woodlark** at Sidcup - nine were there at first and there were still six on 22nd. A **Shag** was seen at Thames Barrier Park on 5th. A **Glaucous Gull** was at Rainham the next day, and two **Penduline Tit** also appeared, staying until the end of the year. On the 7th, a **Lesser Whitethroat** was found to be wintering at Seventy Acres Lake, remaining into 2009. The next day, Q Mother Res turned up the second **Velvet Scoter** of the year, and a **Hawfinch** at Bookham Common marked the start of several December sightings there, with a maximum of nine on 24th. Another four **Scaup** at Q Mother Res on 12th stayed to the end of the year. Two days later, another **Scaup** was at Holyfield Lake, and five **White-fronted Geese** flew over Hilfield Park Res. The next day, an **Iceland Gull** was at Stoke Newington Res, and four **Bewick's Swan** flew over Brent Res, being seen later at Hilfield Park Res. On 16th, a **Slavonian Grebe** was at KGV Res, an **Iceland Gull** at Beddington (with further records on ten dates this month), and an apparent **Siberian Chiffchaff** at Horton GP (whose call was not heard), and 500 **Black-tailed Godwit** were at Rainham. On 17th, there was an **Iceland Gull** at Island Barn Res (and another record on 20th), and the next day a **Waxwing** at Waltham Abbey. Three more **Waxwing** were at Mayesbrook Park on 20th, when there was also a **Glaucous Gull** at Rainham and four **Scaup** at Horton GP. The next day, there were three **Scaup** at Wraysbury GP. On 22nd, a **Great Egret** circled over Holmethorpe SP and a **Waxwing** was at Collier Row. Two days later, another **Waxwing** was at Godstone. Boxing Day produced 36 **White-fronted Geese** east over Chafford Hundred, a **Hen Harrier** at Holyfield Lake and the only December record of a **Little Gull** at Q Mother Res. The next day there was an **Iceland Gull** at Holmethorpe, followed on 28th by a **Slavonian Grebe** at KGV Res. The month ended with a **Red-necked Grebe** at Holyfield Lake, another **Slavonian Grebe** at Staines, a **Scaup** at KGV Res, and a **Siberian Chiffchaff** at Stoke Newington Res which stayed into January. As usual, December gave the highest counts of several duck species for this winter, with 671 **Eurasian Wigeon**, 639 **Common Teal** and 24 **Pintail** at Rainham, 212 **Gadwall** and 172 **Pochard** at Amwell, 775 **Tufted Duck** at Wraysbury GP, and 15 **Goosander** at Walton Res, as well as 500 **Redshank** at West Thurrock.

## Contributors to the Systematic List

All contributors of ornithological records to the Society in 2008 are listed below - and from this year onwards, *only contributors to the current LBR* are included in the list. We apologise if any names have been omitted inadvertently.

We have changed our system of abbreviations for contributors this year, and have allocated them *only to people attributed to records in the text*. This is to make it less time-consuming for us to produce the list. The first two (or three) letters denote the start of the surname, the rest give the person's initials. To give two examples: HeCDR is used for Heard CDR, and MorD is used for Morrison D. The list also now has surnames first, which we hope makes it easier to find the person from their abbreviation. If you have any views on this new system, please let us know.

Abernathy RC	Barber M	Bennell I	Bostock H
Abrahams D	Barn Elms Natural	Bennett B	Boult P
Acfield D	History Group	Bennett L	Boulton P
Adams AT	Barnes D	Benson P	Bowen C
Agar N	Barnes G	Benyon M	Boyes G
Aldred J	Barnes N	Berney D	Bradley SM
Alexander I	Barnes R	Bessant C	Bradnum D
Alexandra Park	Barnett D	Bessant N	Bradshaw H
Ornithological	Barnett M	Betchetti A	Bragg M
Group	Barrett D	Betts P	Braggs J
APOG	Barron D	Bexley JR	Bransby J
ALJP	Barry CJ	Birdguides	Bray J
Allan JP	Bart J	Birdwatching	Bridge D
Allen C	Bart G	Magazine	Briggs P
Amar A	Barter R	Birkett J	Bright A
Anderson N	Bartrick B	Bishop B	Bright-Thomas P
Anderson M	Bashford A	Bishop P	Brindle J
Andrews RD	Bashford R	Bishop R	Bristow A
Annal D	Bateman J	Bishop S	Brodie E
Archer JK	Bateup P	Bishop W	Brooke E
Arnfield RJ	Batten LA	Black D	Brooks E
Arnold L	Batten N	Blackmore S	Brooks H
Arnold R	Batten S	Blake A	Broom F
Artiss H	Baumber A	Blake S	Brown A
Astley J	Baxter J&J	Blatcher P	Brown E
Atkins A	Baxter P	Block SJ	Brown M
Atkins J	Bayly A	Blow S	Brown P
Attwood P	Beach C	Bloys R	Brown S
Avison D	Beale J	Blumire T	Browne A
Avison G	Beatley M	Blunden VE	Browne N
Bacon S	Beatly M	Bodini L	Browne R
Baggott D	Beatty M	Bodman L	Brownsell T
Bailey G	Beaumont M	Bonser P	Bruce-White N
Bailey J	Beddard R	Bonser RH	BTO WeBS Unit
Baker A	Beddington SF Group	Boorham J	Buckel V
Baker H	Beer D	Boorman J	Buckingham S
Baker J	Begbie J	Booth DJ	Buckley V
Baker R	Bell A	Borrie V	Bull P
Banks C	Belson G	Borwick R	Bullock R
Bantock H	Benham J	Boshell R	Burden M
Barber E			
Barber L			



Burgess C		Clode GEK		Curtiss A		Elmes J-P	
Burgess J		Coath D		Cutts MAJ		Elson S	
Burgess R		Coath M		Czapski S		Elvin M	
Burgum N		Cobb A		Dack D		Emblem-English C	
Burroughes A		Cobbald J		Dackus T		Emery D	
Burton M		Coghlan P	CoP	Dagley J		English P	
Butler J		Coleman DA	CoDA	Dally A		Erickson-Hull D	E-HD
Caine G		Coleman J		Darrell-Lambert		Evans LGR	EvLGR
Caine T		Collins M		DG	D-LDG	Evans R	EvR
Caldwell S		Collins ME		Davies M		Evans S	
Callahan D		Collins-Free M		Davies P	DaP	Evens D	
Callf R		Collinson I		Davies R		Everett C	
Callf RM	CaRM	Colmans J		Davis W		Ewart M	EwM
Campbell D	CaD	Combes D		Daw J		Facer R	
Cannings F		Coney S		Dawson D		Faldon P	
Cannings FR		Connelly EP		Dawton B		Falkner R	
Carmichael J		Cook C		De Silva D		Fallace P	
Carpenter B		Cook D		Dean D		Fallan P	
Carr G		Cook P		Dean J		Farmer M	
Carruthers P		Cooke J	CoJ	Deans J		Farrar A	
Carter A		Coope B		Dee C		Farrier M	
Carter D		Cooper A		Delaloye P		Farwell P	
Carter E		Cooper M		Delve J		Fawcett A	
Carter S		Cope R		Denison N		Fearnside J	FeJ
Carter T		Corben DS		Dent M	DeM	Felstead D	
Cass J		Cottingham FJ		Denyer R		Fennell C	
Cass TM		Coultrip G		Derbyshire S		Fentiman C	
Casselton PJ		Covill B	CoB	Dip or Glory website		Ferguson DM	
Catchpole A		Cowrie S		Dixon G		Ferris P	
Chaffe M		Cox A		Dobson T		Field A	
Chalmers S		Cox D		Donetti A		Fisher S	FiS
Chambers K		Cox S		Dorman A		Fisher SL	
Chambers N		Craig M		Drakeford A		Fitzpatrick J	
Chandler D		Crampton E		Duckett AR	DuAR	Fitzpatrick M	
Chaney D		Crampton S		Duffield P		Flanagan T	
Chaperlin K		Crathorne B		Duncan KP		Fleck J	
Chapman J		Crathorne L		Dunwall J		Flesher R	FLR
Chapman JW		Cremer J		Dunwoody R		Fletcher D	
Chapman T		Cresswell P		Eagles R		Flight S	
Charlson E		Cripps R	CrR	Easby R		Flinn G	
Cheeseman A		Cripps RJ		East London Birders		Flint E	
Chilton S		Cropper PM		Forum		Flynn J	
Chipchase AC		Crossness NR		East M		Fogg S	
Christian P		sightings book		Edwards I		Folkerd G	
Clancy T	CIT	Crowther R		Edwards J		Ford A	
Clark D		Croydon RSPB Group		Edwards P		Foreman R	
Clark F			CRSPB	Edwards S		Forgham J	
Clark FC		Crump J		Ekins GR	EkGR	Forsyth E	
Clark P		Cullen P		Eley P		Fowles J	
Clark T		Culshaw A		Ellam C	EIC	Fox S	
Clarke M		Cummings S		Elliot S		Frampton P	FrP
Class S		Curnow D		Elliott R		Frankling M	
Clayton B		Curran I		Ellis IS		Frearson S	
Clews BD		Curtis D		Ellison D		Frearson SD	
Cliffe P	CIP	Curtis G		Ellwood M		Freeman J	

French Je		Green R		Hector M		Hughes M	
French Jo		Green TT		Heeley T		Hull C	
Friar S		Greening P	GrP	Hepburn D		Hulls CAR	
Friends of West Ham Park		Gregory P		Herbert RJ		Hunt N	
Frith M		Griffin D		Hernon J		Hunter JR	
Frosdick M	FrM	Guest K		Herts & Middx Wildlife Trust		Hurst F	
Fure A		Guest P		Herts Bird Club		Husband RA	
Furnell A		Gunkel P		Hetherington M		Hutley D	HuD
Gale J		Guthrie G		Hetherington R		Huttner I	
Gale SW	GaSW	Hadland P		Hewlett A		Hyde D	
Gallagher K		Hague PM		Hibbert M		Hylands P	
Garcia E		Haines W		Hickman M		Ilett M	
Gardener A	GaA	Halley-Frame V		Hicks R		Innes A	
Gardiner A		Hammond M		Hicks RK		Innes RE	InRE
Gardner NJ	GaNJ	Handley K		Hilfield Reservoir Bird Report		Irwin S	
Gatens P		Hannam J		Hill A		Jack J	
Gates J	GaJ	Hanrahan K		Hill M		Jackman P	
Gatley SJ		Hanson J		Hill RS		Jackman R	
Gent S		Harden J		Hill T		Jackson A	
Gibbs A		Hardy R		Hindle D		Jackson B	
Gibson A	GiA	Harlow J		Hiscock T		Jackson P	
Gibson SJD		Harper G		Hobson A		James GA	JaGA
Gilbert J		Harper M		Hocking C		James GJ	
Giles P		Harrigan PD		Hocking D		James V	
Gill E		Harrington S		Hodge TN		Jamie G	
Gill G		Harris A	HaDM	Hodges A		Jarvis K	
Gill M		Harris DM		Hodgson PT		Javes S	
Gilry A		Harris G		Holden A		Jeffreys D	
Girvan DA		Harris GJ		Holliday G		Jenkins Shaw J	
Given Q		Harris M		Holm R		Jenner B	
Gladwin J	GLJ	Harris MF		Holmethorpe Bird Report		Jobbins D	
Gladwin T	GLT	Harris N		Holt K		Johnson C	
Glanville D		Harris SR		Holt KR		Johnson M	
Glassborow J		Harrison L		Holwell B		Johnson R	
Glover B		Harrison R		Honey M	HoM	Johnson S	
Goad AR		Hart P		Hooper R		Jones B	
Goddard AP		Harvey M		Hopkins P	HoP	Jones CDR	
Godden A		Harvey S		Hopkins R		Jones G	
Gompertz D		Harwood N		Horn G		Jones M	
Goodall G	GoG	Hatton W		Hornby K		Jones R	
Goodman M		Hatton WA		Horrocks R		Jones S	
Goodman P		Hawgood G		Housley D		Jones T	
Gordon P		Hawkins D		Howard C		Jordan D	
Gorman S		Hawkins J		Howard D		Jordan M	JoM
Gough D		Hawkins KJ		Howard GN		JP Allan Website	JPAW
Gowland J		Hawkins P	HaP	Howard T		Jupp CR	JuCR
Grant IS		Haworth J		Howdon D	HoD	Kaemena M	
Graves B	GrB	Hay G		Howes M		Kalli G	
Gray A	GrA	Haydon R		Hubbard P		Kaunang J	
Gray B		Haylock T		Hudson J		Kaye R	KaR
Gray C		Haynes A	HaA	Huggins S	HuS	Kehl I	Kel
Gray P		Head J		Hughes C		Kelly S	
Gray W		Healey S				Kemp R	
Green N		Heard CDR	HeCDR			Kempster J	

Kennelly A		Lindo D		Mayes A		Moss P	
Kershaw L		Lindsay C		Mayes P		Motch J	
Kershaw S		Ling D		McBeath G		Moule J	
Kett S		Ling DJ		McCallum L	McL	Moverley A	
Kettle A		Linge V		McCarthy D		Mummery V	
Kettle IJ		Livermore P		McGough D	McD	Murphy N	
Kettle RH		Lloyd MV		Mckee MJ	McMJ	Murray J	
Keymer F		Lomas S		McKenna B		Murray Jsnr	
Kiddell D		London Birders Yahoo		McKenzie DT	McDT	Murray K	MuK
Kilby W		Group		Mckenzie-Lloyd PAF		Murray S	MuS
Kilminster RJ		Londonbirders Wiki		McKinnon S		Murrell P	
King J		Long B		McManus K		Nash J	
Kings M		Lowles B		McManus M		Naylor P	NaP
Kings MP		Lunn MJ		McWalter D		Ndunge T	
Kinsler V		Lyle D		Mead M		Neal S	NeS
Kite P		Lyle T		Meekings C		Needlestone D	
Knight G		Lyon S		Meier J		Netherwood M	NeM
Knott N		Mac M		Mellor R		Neunham W	
Knott S		Macdonald IR		Merchant P	MeP	Neville L	
Knox P		Machin J		Merchant V		Newbound PJ	
Kohler M		Mackay A		Merritt A		Newham J	
KOSnet		Mackie H		Messenger C		Newman C	
Laban K		Mackley C		Messenger M		Newman H	
Lacey H		MacMurdie P		Metcalfe O		Newman M	
Lacey M		Macovich J		Middleton A		Newmark P	
Lambert D		Macrow F		Middleton R		Newson J	
Lambert P	LaP	Maddison G		Miles CR		Newton D	
Lamoureux JP		Magawly C		Miller BA		Niblett M	
Lamsdell C	LaC	Mair P		Miller D		Nicholls GC	
Lancaster B		Malby T		Miller I	Mil	Nichols AJ	
Lane S		Malcolm IR		Miller K	MiK	Nicholson D	
Langsdon P		Malins D		Millington D		Noble KE	
Lapworth G		Manhire WE		Mills K		Noble M	
Lawrence H		Mansfield F		Milopoulos A		Nolan J	
Lawrence J		Mantle P		Minns T		Noler P	
Lawrence N		Manville C		Mitchell D	MiD	Norcott B	
Lawrence P		March A		Mitchell K		Norcott D	
Lawson A	LaA	Maroevic FJ	MaFJ	Moir JWS		Norgate J	
Le Morven M		Marriott M		Monk D	MonD	North S	
Lea D		Marsden G		Moon AV	MoAV	Nowers A	
Leach J		Marsh BA		Moore KE	MoKE	NW Surrey RSPB	
Leahy E		Marshall SK		Moore RC		Group	
Lee A		Marson F		Morgan R		Oakland M	
Lee R		Marson P		Morgan S		O'Connor J	
Leeke S		Martindale J		Morgan W		O'Grady G	
Leeks T		Maskell S	MaS	Morris A		O'Grady P	
Lefever B		Mason J		Morris DJ	MoDJ	O'Leary C	
Leighton R		Mason NJ		Morris N	MorN	Oliver PJ	OIPJ
Lethbridge J	LeJ	Mason S		Morris P		Oliver W	
Lewis A		Massey A		Morrison D	MorD	Orchard M	
Lewis G		Massey L		Morrison P		Orchard MJ	
Lewis GH		Mathews H		Mortimer RC		Osborn S	
Lewis H		Maxwell C		Mortland D		Osborn T	
Lewis M	LeM	May N		Morton T		Osborne L	
Lewis P		May R		Moss J		Osborne T	

Overhead V		Price J		Rye Meads Ringing	Smith K	
Owen E		Price M		Group	Smith KW	SmKW
Pack N		Priestnall J		Rymell P	Smith MJ	
Packman D		Priestnall S		Salmon A	Smith O	
Palmer JM		Prowse AD	PrAD	Sansom E	Smith P	
Palmer V		Purdey KL	PuKL	Santler J	Smith R	
Pank G		Pursall K		Sawtell D	Smith S	SmS
Papps S		Pyrah P		Sayers B	Smith T	
Parish J		Pyrah R		Scheller G	Smith W	
Parish N		Quail J		Schickner M	Smout C	
Parker T		Quinn A	QuA	Scott N	Smout PAC	
Parr M		Radbourn M		Scott S	Soane J	
Parry C		Ramsay W		Scott-Ham M	Souter R	
Pash S		Rare Bird Alert		Scully M	Southcott M	
Pashby C		Raven J		SE Herts RSPB	Sowter R	
Patmore S		Rawlins P		Seargant R	Spencer P	
Payne D		Rear D		Self ASM	Spicer MJ	SpMJ
Payne M		Redfern M	ReM	Sellar P	Spooner B	
Peak D		Reed B	ReB	Sellers P	Spooner SJ	SpSJ
Pearce R		Reed S		Senior NP	Spratt D	
Pearce S		Reeves B		Shailer TE	Squires C	
Pearson A	PeA	Regents Park Bird		Shalom J	Stachnicki A	
Pearson M		Report		Sharpe M	Stafford T	
Pearson MJ	PeMJ	Reid A		Shaw A	Stallard B	
Pearson R		Reid J		Shaw I	Stamford T	
Pedder R		Reynolds A	ReA	Shearman A	Standbridge S	
Peers D		Reynolds M		Shearman AJ	Stanley D	
Peggs G		Reynolds S	ReS	Shepherd M	Stannard E	
Peggs S		Ribeaux H		Shepherd W	Stansfield RH	
Peggs S&G		Richards G		Sheppard S	Stephens D	
Pendergast RM		Riches G		Sherlock B	Stephens I	
Pentecost H		Richmond Park Bird		Sherlock C	Stevens E	
Perkins J		Group		Sherwood A	Stevens P	
Perry C		Ridge J		Sherwood J	Steward L	
Perryman H		Rigby P	RiP	Shields C	Stewart G	
Petch EA		Rix A		Shippey S	Stewart I	
Peters N		Roberts P		Shonleben S	Stewart KC	
Peterson PL		Robinson C		Simmonds Y	Stiegler A	
Petts S		Robinson J		Simmons M	Stirling R	
Phillips N		Robinson M		Simmons Y	Stocks N	
Phillips P		Robinson P		Simms D	Stockwell B	
Picton J	PIJ	Robinson S		Simms O	Stone B	
Pittaway V		Rogers T		Simons M	Stotnicki A	
Pledge D		Roper P		Simpson A	Strangeman PJ	
Podmore A		Rose I		Simpson F	Street P	StrP
Posen S		Ross P		Simpson M	Stride R	
Posen SG		Roxborough-Smith S		Sims M	Stroud A	
Poulter C		Royston P	RoP	Skotnciki A	Stuart AW	
Poynter S		RSPB	RSPB	Smith A	Studd G	
Prater F	PrF	Runnymede Ringing		Smith B	Studholme P	StuP
Prater G		Group		Smith C	Sullivan M	
Preece B		Russell L		Smith D	Sullivan M	
Preston D		Rye Meads		Smith E	Summers C	
Preston P		Partnership	RMP	Smith J	Summersby N	
Price H	PrH					

Surbiton RSPB	Troll S		Wasse J		Wilkinson A	
Sussex P	Tucker R		Waterlife		Wilkinson C	WiC
Sutton GA	Turner C		Waters D		Willet D	
Sutton K	Turner E		Waterworth L		Willett S	
Sutton P	Turner J		Watkins G		Williams I	
Swithinbank J	Tweed A	TwA	Watson J		Williams R	
Tabuteau M	Tydemar K		Watson M		Willis A	
Tanner N	Unite R		Watt I		Wills C	WiC
Tansley A	Unwin B		Watts R		Wills D	WiD
Tansley R	Unwin G		Watts RC		Wilson A	WiA
Tarbox P	Upton C		Watts RJ	WaRJ	Wilson B	
Tarran D	Utton BM		Wawman D		Wilson L	
Tarran R	van Steenis JH	vSJH	Webb R		Wilson M	
Taylor P	Vass A		Webb S		Wilson S	
Taylor R	Vaughan A		WeBS		Winn A	
Terrence F	Vaughan H	VaH	Webster H		Winston P	
Terry J	TeJ		Webster P		Witts A	
Terry R	Vaughan L		Wedge JFN		Wood D	
Thain M	Vaughan P		Welsh Harp		Wood S	
Thatcher V	Vereycken J		Conservation		Wood T	
Theobald R	Verrall AG		Group		Woodley V	
Thomas B	Vinsconti U		Wemys M		Woodward I	WoI
Thomas BJ	von Hagen C		West S		Woodward R	WoR
Thomas J	ThBJ		Westbrook G		Woolcock S	
Thomas S	Wainwright P		Wheatcroft D	WhD	Wooldridge D	
Thomas SG	ThS		Wheeldon P		Worby M	
Thomason E	Wakerling V	WaMF	Wheeler M		Wren A	
Thompson I	Walford MF		Wheeler-Bennet J		Wright B	WrB
Thompson J	Walker S		Whiskin B		Wright BE	
Thompson S	Waller M		White G	WhG	Wright T	WrT
Thrush P	Walliker A		White M		Wrigley K	
Tilbrook J	Wallington J		White PD	WhPD	Wurr M	
Tilley S	Wallis G		White T		WWT	
Timms N	Wallis H		Whiteman P		Wyatt M	
Tingley M	Walsh CA		Whitfield A		Wyatt R	
Tipler J	Walters M		Whittle H		Wybrow H	
Todd R	Ward P		Widdowson D		Youles E	
Tomkins TS	Wardell A		Widgery JP		Young FJ	
Tomlinson A	Warden M	WaR	Wigg M		Young G	
Towler K	Warden R		Wilczur JPP	WiJPP	Younger D	
Travers K	Warren JE		Wileman A		Younger S	
Tregenza P	Warrington K		Wileman T		Yule V	
Trevis B	Washer P		Wilkes A			
	Washington D					
	Washington M					



## Birds of the London Area, 2008

With some Additions and Corrections for previous years

### A REPORT ON BIRD LIFE WITHIN TWENTY MILES OF ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

The sequence and nomenclature of species in the systematic list of this report is based on the *Birds of Britain: the Complete Checklist*, 2nd Edition (Mitchell and Vinicombe, 2006), and the relevant EURING number appears beside each species and subspecies heading. A Checklist of Birds of the London Area appears on pages 231 to 239.

The six counties within the London Area are signified in the report as follows: Essex, Herts = Hertfordshire, Middx = Middlesex, Bucks = Buckinghamshire, Kent and, Surrey, with Inner London (= In Lond) signifying the central rectangular area shown on the map on page 9.

Other abbreviations are:

BBS	= Breeding Birds Survey	OS	= Open Space
CP	= Country Park	PF	= Playing Field(s)
FB	= Filter Beds	PS	= Power Station
GC	= Golf Course	QEII	= Queen Elizabeth II Res
GP	= Gravel Pit(s)	Q. Mary Res	= Queen Mary Res
KGV	= King George V (Essex)	Q. Mother Res	= Queen Mother Res
KGVI	= King George VI (Middx)	R.	= River
LBR	= <i>London Bird Report</i>	Res	= Reservoir(s)
LNR	= Local Nature Reserve	RG	= Ringing Group
M, f/fem,	= Male, female,	SF/W	= Sewage Farm/Works
imm, juv	immature, juvenile	SP	= Sand Pit(s)
NR	= Nature Reserve	WP	= Water Park
N, S, E, W	= North, South, East and West	WR	= Wildfowl Reserve
o/h	= overhead		

Observer abbreviations are shown only against records for species which are rare in the London Area. A list of all the observers who have contributed records for 2008 appears on pages 22-27. The abbreviation "mo" used for some records, indicates "many observers". All running totals of rare or unusual birds that are provided in the systematic list refer to occurrences since 1900. If sightings on several dates are followed by several observer abbreviations, these are set out in date order, with sightings on different dates separated by a semi-colon.

This edition of the *LBR* places greater emphasis on records within the London Boroughs, and lower counts are sometimes included for these areas, reflecting the smaller populations of many species within the built-up area of London.

## 0152 Mute Swan

*Cygnus olor*

Status: common breeding resident.

The number of breeding pairs reported (c. 89) was a little higher than last year, though fewer than two years ago (2006: 109; 2007: 79). This figure includes a few pairs which nested unsuccessfully. However, it is likely that further pairs nested un-recorded. The total is well up on 20 years ago (1988: 48 pairs) when the population was recovering from lead poisoning. Nests were found in a good many urban parks, including Battersea Park, Hyde Park and St James's Park in Inner London, Barking Park and Valentines Park in east London, Finsbury Park and Hampstead Heath in north London and Crystal Palace Park and Tooting and Wandsworth Commons in south London.

Peak counts in each sector (for sites with 11+ birds) are given below; nb these figures represent a mix of non-breeding, post-breeding and winter flocks. For a few of the sites where we have repeated counts, this year's figure is a little down on last year, however the general pattern is similar, eight sites hosting 50 or more birds, and a further seven with 20 or more.

## Mute Swan - Breeding records (incl nest building)

Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
9	28	13-14	2	5	30	2+	89

Essex	Belhus Woods CP, 13 on Oct 19th. Harrow Lodge Park, 125 on July 22nd. Mar Dyke Valley, 11 on Oct 7th. Rainham Marshes, 14 on July 2nd.						
Herts	Batchworth Lake, 79 on July 20th. Bowyers Water GP, Cheshunt, 60 on Aug 20th. Bury Lake, Rickmansworth, 104 on July 20th. Hilfield Park Res, 20 on Nov 25th. Seventy Acres Lake, 73 on June 21st. Stocker's & Bury Lakes, 62 on Jan 13th.						
Middx	Brent Res, 30 on Nov 16th. Ruislip Lido, 40 on Apr 17th. Staines Res, 31 on June 6th.						
Surrey	Beddington SF, 11 on Nov 15th. Holmethorpe SP, 12 on May 11th and June 7th. London Wetland Centre, 20 on Nov 9th. QEII Res, 49 on Oct 5th. R. Thames: Queen's Parade, Kingston, 82 on Sept 30th; Tagg's Island, 50 on Sept 16th. Thorpe Water Park, 34 on Jan 13th. Walton Res, 46 on Aug 22nd.						

## 0153 Bewick's Swan

*Cygnus columbianus*

Status: scarce migrant, usually in autumn, and winter visitor.

Five sightings were reported this year, though two were almost certainly duplicates, making a total of c.11 birds.

Essex	Rainham Marshes, R. Thames, four on Nov 4th (SmD).						
Herts	Hilfield Park Res, two on Nov 24th and four on Dec 15th (MuS; EvLGR). Tyttenhanger GP, one on flooded field from Mar 15th-25th (WhD).						
Middx	Brent Res, four circled over East Marsh on Dec 15th, flying off E (probably next seen at Hilfield Park Res) (HaA).						

**0154.1 Swan spp**

- Essex Bewick's or Whooper, Ockendon, four flew E at 09:00 on Nov 9th (D-LDG).  
 Herts Wild Swan spp, Amwell, two flew over on Nov 24th (ReA).  
 Surrey Bewick's or Whooper Swan, London Wetland Centre, seven on Nov 30th, two ad and five juv (ArRJ).

**0159 White-fronted Goose***Anser albifrons*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant in variable numbers.

Two substantial flocks at Chafford Hundred, plus a few smaller groups at Rainham and Hilfield Park Res, represent a fairly average year for this species. Others, which were probably escapes, are listed in the appendix.

- Essex Chafford Hundred, 35 on Jan 28th and 36 on Dec 26th, both flying E (D-LDG). Rainham Marshes, two on Jan 2nd; six on Feb 16th; six flying in from SE on Feb 17th (VaH; LaP, SmJ; RSPB).  
 Herts Hilfield Park Res, five flying over W on Dec 14th (FeJ).

**0161 Greylag Goose***Anser anser*

Status: common breeding resident, primarily a feral population, controlled.

London's Greylag Geese are often inter-mingled with hybrids, including crosses with both domestic geese and Canada Geese. They are now controlled in some areas and, like many feral species, tend to be under-recorded. Nonetheless, 52 nesting pairs were located and counts of 50 or more birds were received from 19 sites, with the highest counts from the Kent and Essex sectors. The only large count from Inner London was 24 near Tower Bridge on July 14th (no counts were received from the Central Royal Parks where a flock is still present).

All breeding records are given below (no. of pairs in brackets) followed by some of the highest counts in each sector.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP (1), 268 on Sept 14th. Fairlop Waters (2). Warren Gorge (9), 72 on May 5th. Ingrebourne Valley (1+). Grange Waters, 107 on Dec 24th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 100 on Nov 19th. Mayesbrook Park, 28 on Nov 29th.  
 Herts Amwell GP (2), 50 on Aug 31st. Frogmore GP (4). Maple Lodge NR (1), two pairs present, one bred successfully; 85 on Aug 5th. Stocker's & Bury Lakes (3), 104 on Oct 19th. Bowyers Water, 120 on Feb 4th. Lynster's Farm, 100 on Oct 20th.  
 Middx Broadwater Lake, 117 on Dec 6th. East India Dock Basin, four on Aug 23rd. Pymmes Park, four on Apr 30th. Staines Res, six on Mar 20th.  
 Bucks Wraysbury GP, 215 on Dec 16th.  
 Kent Sevenoaks WR (5+), 140 on Jan 30th, 240 on June 2nd, 280 on Oct 25th. Sutton at Hone (1+), 105 on Feb 2nd. Crossness, 45 on Nov 13th. Northfleet, 80 on July 15th. R. Darent, Otford Rd, 55 on Feb 16th.  
 Surrey Beddington SF, nine on Sept 9th. Holmethorpe SP, 100 on Jan 13th, 165 on Oct 4th. King's Wood, Sanderstead, ten flew over on Nov 2nd. London Wetland Centre, 53 on May 19th. QEII Res, 39 on Oct 11th. Richmond Park, Pen Ponds 13 on Dec 13th. Trevereux, 102 on Dec 20th.

In Lond Battersea Park (2), at least two pairs bred. Hyde Park (1), at least one pair bred, raising nine young. Regent's Park (2), at least two pairs bred. R. Thames, Tower Bridge (2); 24 on July 14th; 70 flew W on Oct 17th.

**0166 Canada Goose *Branta canadensis***

Status: very common, introduced, breeding resident, controlled.

This large goose continues to play a noisy and conspicuous part in the capital's birdlife. Its rapid increase up to the 1980s led to control by many authorities, and there is now some sign that numbers are stabilising. In sites for which we have repeated counts, the highest counts in 2008 were higher in three cases but down in six cases compared with 2007. However, the birds still breed successfully on islands and other secluded wetland sites, including a notable 43 broods at Walthamstow Res.

Breeding records for sites with three or more pairs are listed below (nos. of pairs/broods in brackets), followed by some of the highest counts in each sector (lower counts and all breeding records are included for sites towards the city centre).

Essex Warren Gorge (4). Walthamstow Res (43), 259 on Feb 10th. Finsbury Park, 39 on Jan 6th. Goodmayes Park, 158 on Feb 17th. Ilford: South Park, 165 on Nov 1st; Valentines Park, 50 on Nov 14th. Mayesbrook Park, 91 on Nov 29th. Rainham Marshes 186 on Nov 27th.

Herts Amwell GP (19+), 150 on June 22nd. Hatfield Park (3). Maple Lodge NR (3). Radlett, Moor Mill (4). Stocker's & Bury Lakes (5), 227 on June 21st. Tyttenhanger GP (6), 315 on Oct 7th. Bowyers Water GP, 174 on Sept 13th. Broxbourne GP, 206 on Nov 15th. Hilfield Park Res, 188 on Aug 31st. Panshanger Park, 244 on Sept 14th. Rye Meads, 242 on Sept 12th.

Middx Alexandra Park (6). East India Dock Basin (1). Finsbury Park (3) but two broods thought to be predated by crows. Brent Res, 245 on July 20th. Enfield Grammar School, 69 on 21st Nov. Staines Res, 338 on Aug 29th.

Kent Crossness, S. Marsh, 100 on Oct 9th. Danson Park, 95 on Oct 13th. Sevenoaks WR, 152 on June 22nd.

Surrey Beddington SF (4), 149 on Aug 31st. London Wetland Centre (1), 424 on Aug 6th. Ravensbury Park (1+), 11 juv in July. Richmond Park (3), 92 on Dec 8th. Spencer Rd Wetland (1). Walton Res (9). Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (4), 42 on Sept 28th. Worcester Park former STW (3). Carshalton Ponds, 85 on Feb 3rd. Dulwich Park, 32 on Jan 13th. Holmethorpe SP, 291 on Sept 13th. R. Thames: Putney-Barnes, 61 on Feb 10th; Tagg's Island, 156 on July 22nd.

**0167 Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis***

Status: rare winter visitor and occasional visitor from self-sustaining population outside the London area.

The year began with a notable group of c.37 birds, which had been present at the end of 2007, remaining around Rainham Marshes from Jan 1st-16th. Red staining on the necks helped to confirm their genuine wild status.

Essex Rainham Marshes, up to 37 birds seen between Jan 1st & 16th (mo).

- 0168 Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*  
 Status: occasional migrant and winter visitor.
- Although mainly associated with sites lower down the Thames Estuary, a few Brent Geese venture further upstream each year. By far the majority of this year's records came from Rainham Marshes, with sightings on 18 dates, including eight birds (which were also seen at Crossness) on Nov 4th. Records were also received from 12 other sites, the highest counts being 29 flying over QEII Res on Mar 29th and 15 at Hilfield Park Res and Bushey Heath on Feb 19th.
- Essex Rainham Marshes, one on Jan 21st, 1-2 on Feb 20th, 21st & 23rd, one on Apr 16th, three on Sept 9th, two on Nov 1st, eight on Nov 4th, then singles on five other dates in Nov, three on Dec 8th and 1-3 on Dec 10th-13th. Walthamstow Res, one on June 24th. W. Thurrock Marshes, one on Feb 23rd.
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, 15 on Feb 19th.
- Middx Staines Res, one on May 17th.
- Kent Crossness, eight on Nov 14th and two on Dec 27th. Greenhithe, one on May 26th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, one on Apr 14th. Holmethorpe SP, two on Mar 10th. Island Barn Res, one on Mar 30th. London Wetland Centre, one on Dec 22nd. QEII Res, 29 on Mar 29th, one on Apr 22nd and Nov 7th.
- 0170 Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca*  
 Status: increasing, introduced breeding resident.
- This curious "bespectacled" goose seems to be expanding steadily. It was reported from a total of 91 sites, nine more than 2007, and even allowing for extra coverage with the start of a new atlas, this suggests some expansion in range. West Middx (Bushy Park to Shepperton) remains a stronghold, but this species is clearly becoming established around Tooting-Wandsworth and parts of the Colne and Lea Valleys. A total of 15 nesting pairs was reported (the same number as last year). Breeding dates seem to vary greatly with youngsters "at least a week old" near Esher on Feb 27th and "chicks" at Sevenoaks WR on Aug 6th.
- A summary is given for each sector, with all nesting records (no. of pairs/broods in brackets) and some of the highest counts.
- Essex Recorded at 13 sites. Fishers Green Goosefield, 13 on Mar 24th. Hayes Hill Farm, nine on Jan 15th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 12 on Nov 19th & 23rd. Holyfield Lake, six on Nov 2nd.
- Herts Recorded at 13 sites, mostly 1-2 birds on 1-2 dates, more frequent at Lynster's Farm, Maple Lodge NR, Tyttenhanger GP and Veruliam Park and Lake. Lynster's Farm, max seven on Oct 16th and Nov 6th. Lynster's GP, max four on Aug 18th.
- Middx Recorded at 15 sites. Bushy Park (3), 29 on Aug 1st and Oct 21st. Hampton Court Park, ten on June 8th. Littleton Lake GP, 40 on Oct 18th. Shepperton, 39 on Jan 16th. Stoke Newington Res, 12 on Oct 8th.
- Bucks Recorded at four sites. Langley Park (1) five young on May 1st. Q. Mother Res, eight on Aug 16th. Wraybury GP, eight on May 24th.



- Kent Recorded at five sites. Sevenoaks WR (1-2), five young seen on June 4th and three chicks reported on Aug 7th. Crossness, three on June 1st.
- Surrey Recorded at 38 sites. Claremont Gdn, Esher (1) three young on Feb 27th. Kew Gdns (1) eight chicks on July 12th; 11 on Sept 28th. London Wetland Centre (1) two juv on Aug 30th; 17 on Nov 18th. Painshill Park, five chicks on Jan 16th. Richmond Park (3) bred by Bam Wood, Martins Pond and Upper Pen Ponds; Pen Ponds, eight on Jan 1st. Tooting Common (1) four young on Apr 2nd. Wandsworth Common (1-2), one juv in April, two pairs with three juv in June (possibly some from Tooting Common). Clapham Common, 21 on July 26th, 49 on Aug 29th. East Molesey, 28 on June 14th. R. Thames: Tagg's island, ten on May 10th. R. Wandle, Earlsfield, seven on Oct 29th. Wimbledon Park Lake, eight on Jan 23rd.
- In Lond Hyde Park & Kensington Gdns, two on Jan 1st, four on Sept 29th. Regent's Park (1) one pair nested but no young survived; c.20 all year. Greenland Dock, five on Oct 15th.

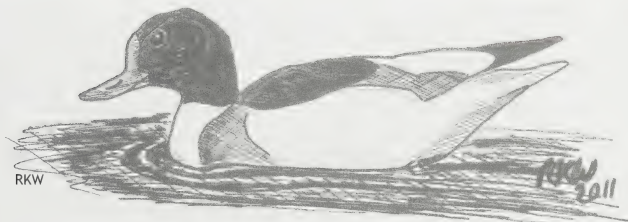
**0173 Shelduck***Tadorna tadorna*

Status: decreasing breeding resident on lower Thames, regular visitor to major waters where it breeds in small numbers.

As in 2007, breeding results were mixed; at least 13 pairs were seen with young, with a further nine pairs summering, but several broods succumbed. Rainham once again reported the most pairs, with at least 3-4 broods, and other pairs may have bred nearby; eg, on June 21st, during a count from across the river at Crossness, "broods of downy young" were reported "on both banks of Thames". Peak counts were comparable to 2007, with some sites recording higher numbers, and others lower, than last year.

All breeding records (no. of broods in brackets) and peak counts for the most significant sites are listed below.

- Essex Rainham GP (1), nine young on June 8th. Rainham Marshes (3+) broods of three, ten and ten; 76 on Jan 19th. Walthamstow Res (2) but one brood succumbed. Wm Girling Res, four juv on Sept 8th. Barking Bay, 100 on June 10th. Roding Creekmouth, 116 on Dec 23rd. Thames Barrier Park/R. Thames, 29 on Nov 19th; 50 on Dec 16th.
- Herts Amwell GP (1). Rye Meads (1), one fledged; 14 on Apr 19th. Tyttenhanger GP, up to four present throughout year.



- Middx Alexandra Park, pair present at Wood Green Res. East India Dock Basin, 44 on Jan 6th. KGV Res, six on Feb 2nd and May 2nd. Q. Mary Res, ten on Mar 24th. Staines Res, 1-2 juv on several dates in July-Aug; five on Mar 14th. Tottenham Marsh, three on Mar 7th.
- Bucks Q. Mother Res (1), five juv in July-Aug. Wraysbury GP, a juv on July 28th.
- Kent Crossness/R. Thames, 247 on June 21st incl many downy young; 249 on July 6th. Swanscombe Marsh (1); 18 ad + nine young on May 25th.
- Surrey Bred at three sites but none survived to fledge. Holmethorpe SP (1+), ten chicks on May 13th. QEII Res (1) 28 incl 13 chicks on June 9th. Walton Res (1), one chick on June 14th; 11 on Apr 24th. Beddington SF, six on May 3rd. London Wetland Centre, seven on Jan 24th.

**0178 Mandarin Duck** *Aix galericulata*

Status: introduced breeding resident, established and locally common.

A total of 35-40 broods was reported, a slight increase on last year. However, the highest individual day total, of 77 at Connaught Water, was well below last year's peak wintering flock at Grovelands Park. Breeding records (no. of broods in brackets) are given below, followed by peak counts for sites with at least five birds.

- Essex Brentwood, Weald Brook (1), family group on June 23rd. Epping Forest: (10-16) pairs in the whole area; Strawberry Hill Pond, 33 on Dec 7th; Connaught Water, 77 on Dec 7th; Knighton Wood, ten on Dec 26th. Bedfords Park, eight on Sept 23rd. Gidea Park, five on Feb 6th.
- Herts Aldenham Res (1), 11 on Nov 16th. Cassiobury Park (1). Fir & Pond Wood (2). Tykeswater Lake (2), seven on Jan 14th and June 26th. Essendon, six on Dec 7th. Panshanger, 43 on Jan 25th. Panshanger Stables, eight on Feb 10th. Potters Bar, Oakmere Park, seven on Feb 22nd. Theobalds Park, five on June 2nd. Wildhill, five on Apr 13th. Woodside, nine on Jan 26th.
- Middx Grovelands Park (2), 66 on Jan 9th. Hampstead Heath, Kenwood (1). Totteridge Valley (2). Trent Park (3), 40 on Feb 23rd. Bushy Park, 20 on June 2nd. Q. Mary Res, six on Sept 14th. Whitewebbs Wood, 38 on Jan 13th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, 11 on Oct 19th.
- Surrey Belair Park (1). Epsom Common (1), 12 on Oct 12th. Nower Wood (1). Richmond Park (1), 30 on Jan 27th. Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (2). Gatton Park Lake, 18 on Mar 9th. Kew Gardens, eight on Sept 28th.
- In Lond Hyde Park (1). Kensington Gdns (1). Regent's Park (3), 28 in Dec.

**0179 Eurasian Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

Status: common winter visitor with occasional summer records.

Rainham remains the winter stronghold for this species in the LNHS Area, but numbers have declined significantly in recent years. Within the built-up area, the London Wetland Centre holds the highest counts, though up to 13 were seen at Crossness, up to nine at Pen Ponds, Richmond Park, up to six at Dagenham Chase and up to five at Stoke Newington Res. Summer records remain scarce. Monthly peak counts from sites with at least one count of 100+ birds are set out in the table below and peak counts of 50 or more (five or more within the London boroughs), are given in the notes.

Eurasian Wigeon		Jan	Feb	Mar	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Belhus Woods CP	102	64	12	2	10	12	40
	Cornmill Meadows	100	90	-	-	-	30	50
	Netherhall GP	-	142	48	-	-	-	-
	Rainham Marshes NR	370	650	420	103	420	410	671
Herts	Bowyers Water	171	30	-	105	320	300	220
	Hilfield Park Res	50	58	12	30	59	102	49
Middx	Broadwater Lake	300	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Q. Mary Res	250	198	86	7	-	25	1
	Staines Res	210	288	145	12	25	-	-
Bucks	Wraysbury GP	-	-	-	125	-	-	-
Surrey	London Wetland Centre	114	73	61	37	42	63	81
	Thorpe Park	87	108	-	-	-	-	41

Essex Dagenham Chase, six on Dec 27th.

Herts Cheshunt GP: Friday Lake, 74 on Nov 16th. Hertford, 70 on Feb 2nd. Lynster's Farm, 70 on Feb 17th. Radlett Aero GP, 50 on Mar 1st.

Middx Brent Res, six on Sept 21st. Hampton Court Park, 19 on Dec 10th. KGVI Res, 74 on Sept 28th. Stoke Newington Res, five on Oct 9th.

Bucks Thorney CP, 70 on Jan 22nd. Woodlands Park Lake, 70 on Jan 21st and Mar 11th.

Kent Crossness, 50 overhead on Dec 14th; 13 on Feb 16th

Surrey Beddington SF, five on Jan 12th, 14-15th Nov and 14th Dec. Richmond Park, Pen Ponds, nine on Sept 17th. Walton Res, 73 on Mar 14th.

## 2007, Correction:

Herts Hilfield Park Res, the unsubstantiated Wigeon breeding record is deleted.

## 0182 Gadwall

*Anas strepera*

Status: local breeding resident and common winter visitor.

Winter counts remained at a similar level to 2007. However, breeding numbers were higher, with a total of 47 broods, a majority of these again being at Rye Meads. Monthly peak counts from sites with at least 100 birds are set out in the table below, and the highest counts for other sites with at least 50 birds (five or more within the London boroughs) are given in the notes. Nos. of breeding pairs are shown ().

Gadwall		Jan	Feb	Mar	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Rainham Marshes NR	160	71	32	-	22	31	121	132
Herts	Amwell GP	136	-	-	15	10	133	162	212
	Bowyers Water	20	11	-	33	62	162	144	140
	Hilfield Park Res	100	83	45	23	25	72	161	145
	Rye Meads RSPB	80	-	-	-	208	135	46	59
	Stocker's Lake	216	119	38	17	31	-	56	23
Middx	Brent Res	49	23	28	63	109	100	62	51
Kent	Crossness LN	136	136	116	16	3	19	81	81
Surrey	London Wetland Centre	86	109	113	101	135	122	73	79

- Essex Belhus Woods CP, six pairs on Feb 16th, up to four in breeding season. Connaught Water, seven on Jan 15th. Dagenham Chase, 19 on Jan 16th. Fairlop Waters, 35 on Dec 18th. Hall Marsh, 64 on Dec 20th. Mayesbrook Park, 21 on Feb 9th. Rainham Marshes NR, 104 on June 14th but no reported broods. Creekmouth, Barking, eight on Nov 6th. Valentines Park, 12 on Mar 4th. Walthamstow Res, 80 on Dec 20th. Walthamstow FB, seven on Mar 17th. Wanstead Park, 14 on Oct 29th.
- Herts Amwell GP (3). Hilfield Park Res (1). Maple Lodge NR (2). Rye Meads RSPB (33+), 325 on June 18th. Aldenham Res, 60 on Jan 24th. Cheshunt GP: Friday Lake, 68 on Jan 12th; Police Pit, 95 on Feb 9th; Seventy Acres Lake, 67 on June 21st. Helicon GP, 90 on Dec 14th. Panshanger Park, 94 on Jan 25th.
- Middx Brent Res (2). Alexandra Park, five on Jan 5th and Oct 25th. Hampton Court Park, 18 on Dec 10th. KGV Res, 71 on Dec 14th.
- Bucks Thorney CP (1).
- Kent Crossness (1).
- Surrey Beddington SF, 55 on Feb 1st. QEII Res (1). London Wetland Centre (1), four juv seen. Kew Gdns, 31 on Dec 31st. Richmond Park, Pen Ponds, 17 on Oct 20th. R. Thames (Putney-Barnes), 62 on Mar 9th. Thorpe Water Park, 90 on Jan 13th. Walton Res, 53 on Dec 7th. Watermeads, Mitcham, 28 on Dec 29th. Worcester Park former STW, five on Dec 31st.
- In Lond Battersea Park (3). Hyde Park, 12 on Jan 12th. Regent's Park, 17 on Dec 17th. St James's Park, fully-winged pair in Feb and May.

## 0184

**Common Teal***Anas crecca*

Status: common winter visitor and rare breeder.

No four-figure counts were recorded this year, but there were healthy numbers in the Thames Estuary, this species' winter stronghold, with significant numbers as far upstream as Putney-Kew. As in previous years a few birds summered, but without proof of breeding. Monthly maxima at the main localities are set out in the table below, with notable counts at other sites and all Inner London records in the notes.

Common Teal		Jan	Feb	Mar	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Barking Outfall	-	430	-	-	-	-	305	568
	Cornmill Meadows	-	60	-	-	-	-	120	120
	Rainham Marshes NR	350	286	-	72	130	31	300	639
	R. Roding, Creekmouth	200	432	244	-	-	-	-	500
	Thames Barrier Park/ R. Thames	-	-	-	-	52	130	100	40
	William Girling Res	-	130	-	-	-	50	-	148
Herts	Rye Meads RSPB	138	96	60	20	55	56	114	127
Middx	Brent Res	104	47	42	4	80	108	138	88
	East India Dock Basin	-	-	-	12	32	100	200	250
Kent	Crossness LNR	850	840	570	240	500	350	500	410
	Sevenoaks WR	74	46	26	12	54	48	95	137
	Thames Barrier	-	-	-	52	-	-	100	150
Surrey	Beddington SF	350	186	175	60	224	300	250	242
	London Wetland Centre	233	415	282	44	88	174	178	431
	R.Thames (Putney-Barnes)	216	290	247	-	-	45	83	-

Essex	Dagenham Chase, 24 on Jan 18th. Fairlop Waters, 45 on Dec 18th. Ingrebourne Valley, 83 on Dec 6th. Walthamstow Res, 107 on Feb 10th. West Thurrock Marshes, 117 on Mar 6th.
Herts	Radlett Aero GP, 59 on Nov 2nd.
Middx	Hackney Marsh, 66 on Feb 12th. KGV Res, 84 on Dec 20th. Stoke Newington Res, three on Mar 19th. Tottenham Marsh, six on Mar 23rd and Apr 2nd.
Bucks	Wraysbury GP, 63 on Dec 28th.
Kent	Dartford Marshes, 131 on Feb 9th. Swanscombe Marsh, 73 on Oct 18th.
Surrey	Kingston Cemetery, 14 on Jan 27th. Morden Hall Park, six on Dec 29th. Walton Res, 53 on Jan 12th. Watermeads, Mitcham, 70 on Dec 29th.
In Lond	Hyde Park & Kensington Gdns, a male on Jan 1st and a pair on Jan 2nd. Regent's Park, 1-4 from Jan to Mar and one on Dec 17th.

**0186 Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*  
 Status: very common and widespread breeding resident.

Although still common on a wide variety of water bodies throughout the London Area, Mallard numbers have declined steadily in recent years, with a 24% fall since 1995 in London according to the BBS. The highest count was 494 in December along the R. Thames from Putney-Barnes.

The table below gives monthly maxima at sites where at least 150 were recorded. A summary of breeding records follows in the notes. At least 168 broods/territories were reported (cf 152 in 2007), though undoubtedly many more pairs breed unreported in park lakes and other aquatic habitats across the capital.

**Mallard, monthly counts**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Herts										
Aldenham Res	-	48	67	-	150	103	-	108	108	-
Amwell GP	58	-	-	-	43	66	18	64	120	152
N. Mymms Park	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	300	-	-
Panshanger Park	260	48	103	51	300	350	300	250	200	150
Redwell Wood Fm	51	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200
Stocker's/Bury Lk	29	26	43	26	41	36	19	300	77	51
Surrey										
London Wetld Ctr	359	308	204	237	151	144	147	143	306	180
R. Thames										
(Putney-Barnes)	-	121	97	-	-	-	367	373	-	494
R. Wandle										
(Carshalton)	-	-	124	-	-	-	-	-	-	372

Essex	24 broods reported at 14 sites.
Herts	18 broods reported at four sites.
Middx	Six broods reported at six sites.
Bucks	One brood reported at one site.
Surrey	111 broods/territories reported at 14 sites, incl 80 along the R. Wandle.
In Lond	Eight pairs reported breeding at one site.



- 0189 Pintail** *Anas acuta*  
 Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers, very occasional summer visitor.
- As in 2007, the highest counts came from Rainham Marshes, with few other sites holding more than ten birds. The London Wetland Centre also attracts significant numbers, though how many of these stem from purely wild ancestry is debatable, as in the past full-winged birds have escaped from collections in central London. Nonetheless, as the table below shows, the birds there show a similar seasonal pattern to Rainham's wild birds, with only a single sighting (albeit seven birds) recorded between April and late September. A summary of other records follows in the notes below.
- | Pintail, monthly max  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex                 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Rainham Marshes       | 30  | 28  | 18  | 3   | -   | -   | -   | -   | 11  | 8   | 22  | 24  |
| Surrey                |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| London Wetland Centre | 18  | 11  | 10  | -   | 7   | -   | -   | -   | 1   | 1   | 5   | 7   |
- Essex Hall Marsh, a pair on several dates from Jan 6th-19th. Holyfield Hall Farm, two on Jan 8th. Holyfield Lake, a pair on Feb 27th.
- Herts Beech Farm GP, one on Jan 13th and Sept 21st. Bowyers Water, one on Feb 24th. Friday Lake, one on Dec 31st. Hilfield Park Res, one on Nov 17th. Seventy Acres Lake, a pair from Jan 6th-19th, then one on Feb 16th, Nov 23rd and Dec 9th.
- Midxx Brent Res, singles on Sept 22nd and Oct 11th, then a pair on Oct 15th, the drake remaining to Dec 7th. Q. Mary Res, a pair on Feb 13th. Staines Res, six on Sept 12th-13th, two on 15th.
- Bucks Q. Mother Res, a pair on Feb 14th.
- Kent Crossness, a single on Apr 20th. Littlebrook GP, a single on Dec 31st.
- Surrey Beddington SF, two on Feb 8th, 15 on July 1st. Holmethorpe SP, one on Feb 9th. London Wetland Centre, 4-10 frequently in winter, 17 flew in on Jan 24th. R Thames: Putney-Barnes, five on Dec 14th; Wandsworth, four on Dec 10th. R Wandle, a pair on Feb 1st; Wandle Creek, one on Nov 17th. Walton Res, one on Feb 24th.

### 2007, Correction:

- Herts Cheshunt, Pintail: a pair was seen but did not breed in 2007.

- 0191 Garganey** *Anas querquedula*  
 Status: scarce passage migrant, rare in winter. Occasionally breeds.

A fairly typical year, with records from 25 sites (doubtless some involving the same birds). Birds were reported in every month from January to October, with the highest number of records in April and August, during spring and autumn passage. Although several sightings were reported in June, there was no evidence of breeding. The London Wetland Centre and Rainham Marshes seem the most likely sites for finding this species.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP, 1-2 males from Apr 7th-13th. Gunpowder Park, one on Sept 4th. Ingrebourne Valley, two on Apr 12th and a pair on June 10th. Rainham Marshes NR, four on Apr 16th, then a steady stream of spring records until June 21st, with a max of four in any one day; two on Aug 8th, then mostly singles until Oct 11th. Walthamstow Res, one on Apr 20th-21st and May 27th.
- Herts Amwell GP, one on Jan 31st, three dates in April and also on May 28th; three males on May 31st. Hilfield Park Res, three on Mar 15th-18th. Lynster's Farm, one on July 20th. Maple Lodge NR, a male from Apr 5th-7th, then 2-3 on three further dates in Apr; one on two dates in May and July 17th-18th. Rye Meads, a male on Apr 28th; 1-2 from July 27th-Sept 18th. Stanstead Abbots GP, one on July 27th. Stocker's Lake, one on Apr 8th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on May 13th.
- Middx Brent Res, singles on five dates from July 27th-Sept 18th. KGVI Res, one on Sept 16th & 18th. Staines Res, singles on May 5th-6th, June 6th and Sept 14th & 27th (same as KGVI Res).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, an adult and juv on Sept 6th and Oct 3rd & 7th, plus a separate bird on Sept 29th.
- Kent Dartford Marshes, one on May 14th. Sevenoaks WR, one on June 4th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, two on Apr 14th and Aug 11th-14th. Holmethorpe SP, three on April 20th. London Wetland Centre, a male on Jan 28th; a male regularly from Feb 24th-May 18th, with a female on May 18th; one on June 22nd; then passage birds from July 24th-Sept 10th, incl four on Aug 10th. R. Thames (Putney-Barnes), one on Mar 9th. Walton Res, one on May 7th.

**2007, Correction:**

- Kent The Garganey listed at Ruxley GPs on Sept 11th should have been shown as Sept 11th 2005.

**0194 Shoveler***Anas clypeata*

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor, scarce breeder, with small numbers recorded in summer.

This year's counts are broadly comparable with 2007: the trend, if downward, is small. Three pairs definitely bred (with summering birds also reported) and that figure would have been higher but for the loss of nests through flooding at Rye Meads. Monthly maxima for the main sites are tabulated below, followed by other high counts and breeding records, with no. of pairs shown (); all records are given for Inner London.

Shoveler		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Barking Outfall	-	93	-	-	-	-	-	14	102
	Rainham Marshes NR	60	88	-	57	32	34	104	84	148
	Walthamstow Res	-	-	49	-	2	-	130	175	-
Herts	Amwell GP	74	250	-	4	-	-	72	20	15
	Stocker's Lake	57	59	108	-	-	-	-	26	22
Middx	Brent Res	31	29	24	3	19	104	84	47	33
	Staines Res	-	74	78	26	48	170	238	190	96
Surrey	Beddington SF	65	70	65	2	25	84	62	67	56
	London Wetld Ctr	194	302	225	53	70	158	127	102	150
	Walton Res	11	28	17	59	-	42	107	117	109

Essex	R. Roding, Creekmouth, 68 on Jan 13th and 93 on Feb 24th.
Herts	Maple Lodge NR (1) the site's first breeding record. Rye Meads, four pairs, no broods, but at least two nests flooded.
Middx	Broadwater Lake, 93 on Jan 7th. Kempton Park NR (1), ten young in June.
Bucks	East Iver Lakes, 58 on Jan 22nd. Orlitts Lakes, 80 on Dec 29th.
Kent	Crossness LNR, 107 on Jan 6th.
Surrey	Holmethorpe SP (1), one duckling surviving to Aug 14th.
In Lond	Hyde Park & Kensington Gdns, 30 on Jan 1st. Regent's Park, 11 on Jan 6th, nine on Dec 17th.

**0196 Red-crested Pochard** *Netta rufina*  
 Status: rare autumn and winter visitor, but true status clouded by frequent escapes and feral breeding.

The confusion regarding this species' true status in London will continue as long as the feral flocks in Bushy Park and Regent's Park are thriving. As last year, records from Inner London and around Bushy Park are listed in the appendix, with those that are considered more likely to represent wild birds shown here. Records were received from 22 sites (including those with free-flying feral flocks), compared to 17 in 2007. From 2010, all records of free-living Red-crested Pochard of captive ancestry will be re-classified as category C (naturalised).

Essex	Fairlop Waters, one on Oct 18th. Holyfield Lake, two on Oct 18th and Nov 29th. Walthamstow Res, two on Aug 13th and one on Aug 31st.
Herts	Amwell GP three on Jan 13th and one on five dates in Nov-Dec. Bowyers Water GP, two on Aug 29th and one on Oct 8th. Bury Lake/Stocker's Lake, up to seven in Jan; up to 15 in Feb; three on Mar 1st; five on Oct 19th; singles on 12 other dates. Hilfield Park Res, one on three dates in Jan and Oct 13th-14th. Letchmore Heath, one on Jan 3rd & 6th. Lynster's Farm, one on Oct 19th. Seventy Acres Lake, two on Oct 19th.
Middx	Brent Res, six on Dec 8th, Ruislip Lido, three on Oct 24th. Stoke Newington Res, two on Feb 15th; 1-3 in Aug; two on Oct 10th; four on Dec 15th.
Bucks	Horton GP, one on Mar 24th. Wraybury GP, three on Dec 26th.
Surrey	London Wetland Centre, three on July 28th. Thorpe Water Park, two on Jan 13th. Walton Res, one on July 22nd.

**2007, Additional record:**

Herts	Maple Lodge NR (1) brood of Red-crested Pochard, one probably fledging.
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**0198 Common Pochard** *Aythya ferina*  
 Status: common winter visitor and migrant, scarce breeder.

The slow decline in Pochard counts continued. There were no counts of over 300 birds, only two over 200 and only 36 over 50 birds (cf 40 in 2007). Only 18 sites reported monthly counts of over 50 birds (see table below). Once again, the highest count was at Hilfield Park Res, 228 on Aug 17th.

At first sight, breeding records were more encouraging, with a total of 56-58 broods from 14 sites, an impressive 15 of these at Rye Meads alone. However, although the total is slightly up on last year's 52-54 broods, the 2007 data did not include a figure for Rye Meads, so this year's total probably masks a fall in broods from other sites.

The table below shows monthly peak counts for sites with at least one count of 50 or more birds and the text gives all breeding records (no. of broods) and all Inner London records.

#### Common Pochard, monthly peak counts

		Jan	Feb	Mar	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Belhus Woods CP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60
	Grange Waters	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55
	Holyfield	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	139
	KGV Res	92	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Rainham Marshes	-	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Walthamstow Res	-	118	-	-	-	-	-	111	-
Herts	Aldenham Res	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Amwell GP	82	-	-	-	-	-	72	105	172
	Bowyers GP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57
	Hilfield Park Res	119	92	-	168	228	180	-	-	94
Middx	Stocker's & Bury Lk	219	-	60	-	-	-	150	50	62
	Brent Res	66	76	-	-	-	-	-	-	62
	Broadwater Lake	89	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bucks	Staines Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	131
	Wraysbury GP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65
Surrey	Thorpe Water Park	144	95	-	-	-	-	-	-	138

Essex Rainham Marshes (1). Walthamstow Res (5).

Herts Aldenham Res (3). Amwell GP (1). Maple Lodge NR (3). North Met. GP (1). Rye Meads (15). Seventy Acres Lake GP (1).

Middx Brent Res (2). Alexandra Park (2). Clissold Park (1)

Surrey London Wetland Centre (6-8). Lonsdale Rd Res (1).

In Lond Regent's Park (11).

#### 0202 Ferruginous Duck

*Aythya nyroca*

Status: rare vagrant.

A single record of this rare *Aythya* was reported in 2008, a drake at Amwell GP. This species is not seen every year in the LNHS Area and past records have been clouded by the presence of long-staying escaped birds.

Herts Amwell GP, one adult male, Oct 11th until 31st (ReB).

#### 0203 Tufted Duck

*Aythya fuligula*

Status: regular resident breeder and common winter visitor.

Although widespread throughout the year, the Tufted Duck is seen in the highest numbers during post-breeding moult gatherings and in winter. The table below shows counts from sites with 100+ birds (50+ in Inner London),





Essex	Belhus Woods CP (3). Harrow Lodge Park (5). Highams Park (1). Hook's Marsh (2). Rainham Marshes (3). Walthamstow Res (3).
Herts	Amwell GP (5). Cheshunt GP (2). Hampermill (1). Helicon GP (1). Howe Green (1). Maple Lodge NR (6). Rye Meads (49). Stocker's Lake (5). Troy Mill (4). Tyttenhanger GP (c.6). Verulamium Park (2).
Middx	Alexandra Park (1). Brent Res (1). Grovelands Park (2). Little Venice (2). Staines Res (c.5).
Bucks	Horton GP (1).
Kent	Crossness (1). Foots Cray Meadows (1).
Surrey	Beddington SF (3). Epsom Common (1). Holmethorpe SP (9). Hurst Park (1). London Wetland Centre (c.30+). Richmond Park (4). R. Thames, Tagg's Island (1). S. Norwood Lake (3). Stamford Green (1). Thorpe Water Park (c.25). Tooting Common (1). Walton Res (14). Wandsworth Common (3). Wimbledon Common (2).
In Lond	Kensington Gdns (2). Regent's Park (8), 175 on Dec 17th. Lavender Pond (1).

**0204 Scaup** *Aythya marila*  
 Status: regular but uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant, occasional large influxes during cold weather.

At least 18 birds were seen in 2008, scattered between 11 sites, which is slightly more than in 2005-7. There were two long staying groups: the first, in the Staines Res area, comprised 1-3 birds remaining from Dec 2007, from Jan 1st to late March/early April; the second, seen at Q. Mother Res, Wraysbury GP and Horton GP in December, included at least four birds, though two at Queen Mother Res in early Nov may also have been part of this group.

Essex	Holyfield Lake, one on Dec 14th. KGV Res, three 1st-winter and one ad on Nov 14th, one on Dec 31st. Mayesbrook Park, a male from Feb 8th-10th.
Herts	Amwell GP, one male on Oct 11th.
Middx	Staines Res, 2-3 from Jan 1st-Mar 28th, four on Mar 29th-31st, two on Apr 6th, four on Nov 22nd.
Bucks	Horton GP, four from Dec 20th-21st. Q. Mother Res, a female on Nov 7th, plus an imm female on Nov 11th, then four from Dec 12th-31st. Wraysbury GP, two on Dec 2nd-7th, three on Dec 21st.
Surrey	S. Norwood Lake, a female on Sept 23rd.

**0205 Lesser Scaup** *Aythya affinis*  
 Status: very rare vagrant.

An adult drake was found at Wraysbury GP (Village Pit) at 17:20 on Oct 5th with Tufted Ducks. The flock then departed but were relocated on the BA Pit and watched until dusk. The bird was found again on Oct 8th at Q. Mother Res, again with Tufted Ducks, where it stayed until Oct 15th. This is the third London occurrence of this rare Nearctic vagrant.

Bucks	One at Wraysbury GP on Oct 5th, then at Q. Mother Res from Oct 8th-15th (HeCDR <i>et al</i> ).
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JPPW

**0213 Common Scoter***Melanitta nigra*

Status: passage migrant and occasional winter visitor, never numerous.

After a dip last year, numbers were similar to 2005-6, with 15 records from eight sites, totalling 38-40 birds. There is some evidence of small influxes in both E and W London sites. Whether this is due to birds stopping at several sites as they pass through, or a wider passage through the area is not clear. A flock of 15 at Rainham on March 27th was notable.

Essex KGV Res, three on Mar 27th (CLT). Rainham Marshes, R. Thames, 15 on Mar 27th (TWA). Wm Girling Res, one on Nov 16th (WoR).

Middx KGV Res, one on Nov 22nd-23rd (MoAV *et al*). Staines Res, six on Sept 7th, one on Sept 9th (PuKL *et al*).

Bucks Q. Mother Res, singles on July 19th and Sept 22nd (HeCDR).

Surrey London Wetland Centre, three on Sept 7th (HoM, GaJ). QEII Res, 3-4 on Apr 2nd-5th; one on Nov 5th (HaDM & SpSJ; HaDM). Walton Res, one on Nov 7th-8th, 21st and 25th (HaDM; SpSJ; SpSJ; QuA).

**0215 Velvet Scoter***Melanitta fusca*

Status: rare passage migrant and winter visitor.

A scarce bird in the London Area, this species is not seen every year, but 2008 produced two records, both at Q. Mother Res. The first bird was found in the late afternoon on Jan 15th (while the observer was checking roosting gulls) and seen again the next day. The second was seen only on Dec 8th.

Bucks Q. Mother Res, one fem/imm on Jan 15th & 16th, one fem/imm on Dec 8th (HeCDR).

**0218 Common Goldeneye***Bucephala clangula*

Status: common winter visitor, occasional summer record.

Winter visitor, usually reaching peak numbers in February and March. This year's peak counts were much lower than in the previous two years (86 in 2007; 75 in 2006) with none over 50, the highest being 49 at Wraysbury GP complex. The last birds in the first half of the year were single drakes at Staines Res and Holyfield Lake on April 24th. A summering bird was reported at KGV Res on July 20th and Aug 15th and 17th, and one

(probably the same bird) was seen at Staines Res on July 31st. Sightings during August and September are unusual, the bulk of the wintering flocks returning in October-November and peaking after Christmas. The table below lists all monthly peaks of ten or more birds.

Common Goldeneye		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	KGV Res	30	40	41	15	-	14	29
	Walthamstow Res	15	18	14	-	-	-	-
	Wm Girling Res	25	-	-	-	-	21	25
Herts	Amwell GP	-	14	-	-	-	-	-
	Stocker's Lake	26	17	15	-	-	13	18
Middx	Broadwater Lake	22	36	-	-	-	-	10
	KGVI Res	22	37	32	15	-	34	31
	Staines Res	21	45	40	10	-	19	22
Bucks	Wraysbury GP	18	49	-	-	-	22	26
Surrey	Island Barn Res	-	17	14	-	-	-	-
	QE II Res	12	16	16	-	-	-	-
	Walton Res	-	12	-	-	-	-	10

## 0220 Smew

*Mergellus albellus*

Status: winter visitor in highly variable numbers.

The two highest counts in 2008 were 12 at Thorpe Water Park on Dec 30th and ten on Staines Res on Feb 17th (cf no. counts over ten in 2007). Records were received from 27 sites, with counts of five or more birds at seven of these. The last record in the first winter period was two birds at Staines Res on Mar 16th, and the earliest to return was a single redhead (actually a late-moulting male) at Connaught Water on Nov 17th. Early and late dates have not changed much over the past ten or so years, with most early return dates being in the third week of November. However, the number of birds visiting is in long term decline; whether this is a reflection of climate change, population decline or other reasons is unclear. Counts of three or more birds are summarised below.

Essex	Belhus Woods CP, three on Jan 13th. Holyfield Lake, three on Jan 20th. Netherhall GP, three on Jan 6th.
Herts	Amwell GP, 3-6 in Jan and Feb; four on Dec 29th. Bowyers Water, five on Dec 31st. Friday Lake, 3-5 from Jan 27th-Feb 2nd. North Met GP, four on Jan 15th. Stocker's Lake, recorded on six dates in Jan, max of six on 22nd.
Middx	Staines Res, ten on Feb 17th, four on 24th and 2-3 on Mar 8th-9th; a drake on Dec 17th and a redhead on Dec 31st.
Bucks	Wraysbury GP, 3-7 in Jan with peak of seven on 5th; four on Dec 26th.
Surrey	Thorpe Water Park, three on Jan 13th; twelve on Dec 30th.

## 0221 Red-breasted Merganser

*Mergus serrator*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Reports were received from seven sites, totalling just seven birds, which included three long-staying females - a low year total, though numbers

vary widely. Two of the birds were in Essex, one from Jan-Mar on Banbury and KGV Res, the other in the second half of December at KGV Res. The third long stayer was in Surrey and seen at Walton, Island Barn and QEII Res from mid-November almost to the year end. The only one record of two birds was at Beddington SF on Dec 16th. All records are listed.

- Essex Banbury Res, one redhead present intermittently from Jan 10th-Mar 4th, returning on Dec 11th and 18th. KGV Res, the same individual seen first on Jan 12th, then on several dates to Mar 9th, and a redhead was present again from Dec 14th until the year end. Rainham, a redhead on Sept 11th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, a redhead flew W on Oct 23rd; a male and a redhead flew S on Dec 16th. Walton Res, a redhead intermittently from Nov 17th-Dec 7th. The same individual intermittently at Island Barn Res from Nov 18th-Dec 29th and at QEII Res from Nov 24th until Dec 3rd.

**0223 Goosander** *Mergus merganser*  
 Status: regular winter visitor, very rare in summer.

Records of Goosander came from 54 sites (47 in 2007). However, the number of large flocks seen was lower than last year, with none over 20 and only 11 flocks of ten or more birds, albeit showing a broader geographic spread. The highest counts were 19 at Wm Girling Res and 17 at Turnford GP, both on Jan 12th. Numbers tend to fluctuate from year to year but there is a clear decline compared with ten years ago. In 1998 the highest count was 99 birds, and 69 in 1999. As with the Smew, the reasons are unclear.

There were two records of late single birds, at Amwell GP and Tyttenhanger GP, on May 11th, and the earliest record of a returning bird was one at Amwell GP on Oct 19th. Counts of ten or more birds are summarised in the table below, in each case giving the highest figure for the month. (Note no Middlesex site reached this number). There were no summer records. Other notable records are listed in the notes beneath.

Goosander		Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec
Essex	Weald Park	10	-	-	-	-
	Wm Girling Res	19	-	-	-	-
Herts	Turnford GP	17	15	-	-	-
Bucks	Wraysbury GP	12	-	-	-	-
Surrey	Painshill Park	14	-	-	-	-
	QEII Res	14	-	-	-	-
	Walton Res	14	-	-	-	15

- Essex Gunpowder Park, eight on Jan 28th. Holyfield Lake, eight on Jan 27th and Dec 7th. Weald Park, eight on Jan 3rd & 5th and Feb 28th.
- Herts Stocker's Lake, seven on Dec 19th.
- Middx Staines Moor, six on Feb 24th. Tottenham Marsh, seven on Dec 1st. Trent Park, six on Dec 29th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, seven on Jan 1st and 7th.
- Surrey Walton Res, nine on Nov 26th and Dec 15th.

## 0225 Ruddy Duck

*Oxyura jamaicensis*

Status: widespread winter visitor of non-native origin, localised breeder; declining following the nationwide cull.

Numbers are reducing rapidly as the nationwide cull continues to have a significant impact. The reductions in count size in 2008 compared with 2007, for sites with 20 or more birds, can be clearly seen in the table below. The highest count was of 78 birds on Jan 12th at Staines Res, whereas a peak of 457 was noted there in 2006. Under the effect of the cull, birds have become more mobile and flocks rapidly re-distribute between nearby waters. Breeding success continues to be affected, with just 14 broods seen this year, compared to 15 in 2007 and 25 in 2005.

Monthly peak counts for sites with 20+ birds are shown in the table below, with breeding records - no. of broods ( ) - and Inner London records set out in the text.

Ruddy Duck		2008 peak counts								2007 peak
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Essex	KGV Res	42	31	30	-	-	-	-	35	8
	Walthamstow Res	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84
Herts	Hilfield Park Res	51	66	56	28	30	50	30	31	132
Middx	Brent Res	-	-	-	-	30	29	23	21	44
	Staines Res	78	-	-	-	-	-	-	47	113
Surrey	London Wetld Ctr	-	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	61
	Walton Res	47	51	-	-	-	-	-	25	56

Essex Belhus Woods CP (2).

Herts Hilfield Park Res (5), five broods. Rye Meads RSPB (1). Maple Lodge NR (1). Seventy Acres Lake (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1).

Middx Brent Res (1).

Kent Small number at Sevenoaks WR on many dates.

Surrey London Wetland Centre (2+).

In Lond Regent's Park, nine on Jan 1st, (2) summered but did not breed, four on Dec 17th.

## 0358 Red-legged Partridge

*Alectoris rufa*

Status: breeding resident, of introduced origin.

This species is probably under-recorded in the London Area (notably in the Kent and Surrey sectors). Nonetheless, it continues to fare considerably better than its native cousin, with local populations clearly supplemented by released stock. Odd birds turn up occasionally in even the most urban of localities. Whether these are true wanderers or escapees is a moot point. Listed below are some of the highest counts - from sites with five or more birds - together with breeding records (nos. of pairs/territories in brackets) and all records within the London boroughs.

Essex Breach Barns, Waltham Abbey, 12 on Dec 7th. Bulphan Fen, 86 on Nov 12th. Coxtie Green, five on Feb 25th. Gunpowder Park, six on Jan 6th; two on May 18th. Holyfield Hall Farm, six on Feb 6th. Ingrebourne Valley, two on Apr 17th and 19th. Orsett, 138 on Jan 21st; 19 on Apr 8th.

- Herts Bedmond (2), 33 on Feb 2nd. Haberdashers' Girls School (1), 11 on June 11th. Prae Wood (4), 16 on Feb 17th. Salisbury Hall (1). Shenley (2). Wood Hall Estate (5). Tyttenhanger GP, up to 12 in breeding season, 50 on Sept 2nd (probably reflects a release). Beech Farm GP, 12 on Sept 13th. Brookmans Park, ten on Dec 23rd. N. Mymms Park, 18 on Apr 19th; 180 on Aug 31st. Panshanger Park, 16 on Jan 28th. Redwell Wood Farm, 25 on Dec 20th. Wildhill, seven on May 18th, 43 on Dec 31st.
- Middx Enfield area: Ferny Hill Farm, two on Apr 9th; Guy Lodge Farm, two on May 13th; Park Farm, 1-2 in breeding season, four on Oct 21st-22nd; Parkside Farm, 3-4 from July-Oct; Sloeman's Farm, 24 on Jan 28th and Vicarage Farm, two in Apr-May and four on Oct 12th.
- Surrey S. Norwood CP, one on Dec 1st was the third record for the site.

**0367 Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*  
 Status: breeding resident, declining.

The sad decline of this species in the London Area continues, with just three broods reported. A summary of all records is given below, with numbers of pairs or broods in brackets.

- Essex Brentwood, two on Jan 3rd. Fairlop Waters, six on Oct 2nd. Orsett: Green Lane (1); Grey Goose Farm (2), two pairs, at least one pair producing a brood, 21 on Jan 14th. Sewardstone Marsh, a juv on Sept 26th.
- Herts Cuffley, two on May 30th. Essendon, one on Apr 23rd. Hatfield Aerodrome, at least one on Aug 10th. Panshanger Aerodrome, two seen on several dates in Jan-Mar. Redwell Wood Farm, two on Apr 29th and June 9th. Smallford, one on June 1st. Tyttenhanger GP, 1-2 between Mar 15th-Apr 28th; one on Oct 2nd.
- Bucks Q. Mother Res, a male with a group of young Pheasants on Aug 31st.
- Surrey South Nutfield, five on Oct 21st, thought to be released birds.

**0370 Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*  
 Status: rare summer visitor.

Two typical spring records were received. The Orsett bird follows one recorded there by the same observer in July 2007.

- Essex Orsett, one calling on May 13th (BaR).  
 Middx Stanwell Moor, one on June 13th (LaC).

**0394 Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*  
 Status: common breeding resident, of introduced origin.

The commonest game bird in London, it remains difficult to distinguish between birds living in a natural state and those from recent releases. Breeding season records where two or more pairs were found are listed below (nos. of pairs/territories in brackets), together with some of the highest counts. All records are given within the London boroughs.



- Essex Fairlop Waters, two on June 3rd, nine on Oct 22nd. Hainault Forest CP, six on Nov 10th. Holyfield Hall Farm, eight on Dec 31st. Ingrebourne Valley, four on May 20th. Orsett, 46 on Oct 1st. Waterworks NR, one on Apr 23rd.
- Herts Garston (3). Hampermill (3). N. Mymms Park, 130 on Aug 31st. Park Street (3). Rye Meads (3). Sopwell Mill, St Albans (3).
- Middx Brent Res, one on Mar 21st. Hackney Marsh, one on Apr 16th. Lake Farm CP, one on Mar 26th. Tottenham Marsh, up to three males in Mar and Apr. Totteridge Valley, several pairs bred.
- Kent College Farm, Bexley, one on Apr 28th and May 23rd. Crossness (1), two males calling in April. Greenwich Park, one on Apr 15th. Knockholt Pound, 15 on Oct 24th. Sevenoaks WR, 1-5 all year. Sundridge, ten on Oct 29th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, one on Mar 30th and May 4th. Bookham Common, "a common resident". Holmethorpe SP (1), 12 on Nov 25th. Horton CP, three on May 18th. Rushett Farm, two on May 17th, 11 on Nov 26th. S. Norwood CP, seen regularly. Walton Downs, 100 on Apr 24th (probable release).

**0002 Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata***

Status: rare winter visitor and occasional migrant.

Over the last ten years, this species has averaged just under two records per year, with only four birds staying longer than a week, so one record in February and another in late autumn makes 2008 a fairly average year.

- Essex Rainham Marshes, singles on Feb 10th and Nov 1st (SmS; StrP, WaW).

**0003 Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica***

Status: rare winter visitor and occasional migrant.

Two sightings in 2008, one at Danson Park, Bexley - seen over four days - and one at Q. Mother Res, Bucks, follow two blank years for this species. The Bexley bird is the longest-staying bird since one around Walton Res in Jan-Mar 2005. Shortly after the Q. Mother Res sighting, a Black-throated Diver was photographed at Calvert, Bucks (outside the LNHS Area), which seems likely to have been the same bird. A diver sp was reported the same day over Amwell GP.

- Bucks Q. Mother Res, one briefly on Apr 19th circled high above the reservoir three times before heading north at 11:24 (HeCDR).
- Kent Danson Park, a first-winter bird from Mar 24th-27th (EwM).

**0004 Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer***

Status: scarce winter visitor and occasional migrant, often after hard weather.

The overall total for the year was 4-5 birds (11 in 2007, ten in 2006), 1-2 individuals in the first winter period, and up to three in the second. At the start of the year, a juvenile from 2007 remained until May 1st, mostly frequenting Q. Mother Res up to Feb 16th and Staines Res thereafter. By Feb 29th, this bird had moulted into first summer plumage, however it

appears that some observers, upon encountering this individual again, continued to identify it as a juvenile bird. A juvenile was noted at Island Barn Res on Feb 28th and Mar 2nd and again at Staines on many dates from Mar 3rd-Apr 27th.

The first bird in the second winter period was a juvenile at QEII Res and Island Barn Res on Oct 27th-28th, later seen at Staines. The second bird appeared to move between Island Barn Res, Walton Res, Q. Mother Res, and QEII Res from Nov 9th, later settling on Q. Mother Res, and a third bird with a deformed lower mandible was on KGV Res from Dec 6th-31st.

- Middx Staines Res, a juv on Jan 1st, 3rd & 18th, Feb 17th & 24th, Mar 3rd, then Mar 19th-Apr 29th (but not Apr 28th); a juv regularly on S. Basin from Oct 29th-Dec 31st. KGV Res, a juv with deformed bill from Dec 6th-31st, joined by the juv from Staines Res on Dec 20th & 28th (mo; PuKL *et al*; InRE *et al*).
- Bucks Q. Mother Res, a juv from 2007 seen regularly until Feb 16th (but not Jan 3rd) then on Feb 19th & 29th, Mar 10th-11th, Apr 28th and May 1st; a juv on Nov 10th, Nov 13th-Dec 8th and Dec 13th-31st (mo; HeCDR *et al*).
- Surrey Island Barn Res, a juv on Feb 28th and Mar 2nd; a juv on Oct 27th-28th, Nov 9th & 11th (both HaDM, SpSJ). QEII Res, a juv on Oct 27th moved to Island Barn Res, then presumed same bird back on Nov 12th (HaDM). Walton Res, a juv in early morning on Nov 10th (HaDM).

**0007 Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis***  
 Status: widespread breeding resident on most suitable waters, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

A total of c. 114 pairs was reported in 2008, which is slightly down on 2007. However, last year's total included figures from some sites for which we had no data this year. This species' strongholds are larger gravel pits and wetland complexes such as the Lea Valley and around the SW London reservoirs. However, it also occupies smaller water bodies in urban parks (eg Pymme's Park, Edmonton), where suitable waterside vegetation is on offer. The notes below give nos. of breeding pairs/territories/broods (nos. in brackets) recorded in each sector, followed by a summary of autumn and winter records and peak counts.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP (1-6). Dagenham Chase (1-2). Grays Chalk Pits (1). Highams Park Lake (1). Mar Dyke Valley, Davy Down (1+). Rainham Marshes (1+). Raphael Park (1). Walthamstow Res (13 broods). Reported from 16 sites in Jan-Feb and 14 sites in Nov-Dec, max in 1st winter period, 32 at Walthamstow Res on Feb 10th.
- Herts Hilfield Park Res (13 broods). Maple Lodge NR (4+). Rye Meads (20). Verulamium Lake (2+). Watford, Grove Estate (3). Recorded at ten sites in Jan-Feb and 11 sites in Nov-Dec, highest counts: 1st winter period, 32 at Panshanger Park on Feb 10th; autumn, 73 at Rye Meads on Sept 12th, and 2nd winter period, 45 at Hilfield Park Res on Nov 6th.
- Middx Brent Res (1). Clissold Park (2). Pymmes Park (1). Parkside Farm Res (2). Stanwell Moor (1). Stoke Newington Res (2). Recorded at six sites in Jan-Feb and seven sites in Nov-Dec. Highest counts: autumn, 28 at Brent Res on Oct 19th, and 2nd winter period, eight at Broadwater Lake on Dec 6th.

- Bucks** Recorded at six sites, maxima of seven at Old Slade Lake on Dec 30th and five at Wraysbury GP on Dec 1st.
- Kent** Crossness LNR (1). Dartford (2). Swanscombe Marsh (3). Reported from three sites Jan-Feb and four in Nov-Dec, with a max of eight at Sevenoaks WR on Feb 10th and also at Greenhithe on Aug 24th.
- Surrey** Beddington Park (2). Beddington SF (1). Holmethorpe SP (2). London Wetland Centre (2+) max of nine juv in Aug. Portsmouth Rd FB (1+). Ravensbury Park (2). Trevereux (2). Waddon Ponds (1). Walton Res (10) broods. Watermeads (1). Wilderness Island NR (1), two broods. Seen at 21 sites Jan-Feb and 18 sites in Nov-Dec. Highest counts: 1st winter period, 28 on Jan 18th at Holmethorpe SP; 2nd winter period, 34 on Nov 21st, at the same site.
- In Lond** Hyde Park & Kensington Gdns, three on Jan 5th. St. James's Park, four on Feb 21st, one calling in May-June, one young seen. Regent's Park (1).

**0009 Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus***  
 Status: common breeding resident and winter visitor.

A minimum of 115 breeding pairs was reported this year, with birds seen at a further 17 sites during the breeding season (122 in 2007). As usual, the Herts sector had the largest share, with a minimum of 41 pairs (not including Stocker's Lake), but there were good numbers in the breeding season at Walthamstow Res and five pairs produced young in Inner London. Monthly maxima from two major gathering sites outside the breeding season are shown in the table below. Breeding records and other records of interest follow in the notes, with details for all sites within the London boroughs and those with two or more pairs elsewhere (nos. of breeding pairs shown in brackets).

Great Crested Grebe	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Middx Q. Mary Res	110	205	208	-	100	-	-	98	57	25	30	11	
Surrey QEII Res	-	15	14	8	14	20	15	49	52	57	58	72	43

- Essex** Highams Park Lake (1). Ingrebourne Valley (1+). Raphael Park (1). Valentines Park (1). Walthamstow Res (19 broods). Warren Gorge, (1). Weald Park (3). Recorded at 18 additional sites, six of these during the breeding season, highest count: KGV Res, 50 on July 27th.
- Herts** Aldenham Res (6). Amwell GP (3). Broxbourne GP (2). Cheshunt GPs (6). Hampermill (4). Hatfield Park (2). Hilfield Park Res (4). Lynster's GP (2). Panshanger Park, 2-4 seen in Apr-July. Rickmansworth, Three Elms Fishery (2). Stocker's Lake, "many broods", one with four juv; 19 on July 20th, 22 on Sept 14th. Tyttenhanger GP (5+). Max count: 46 at Hampermill on Nov 11th.
- Middx** Brent Res (1+), 27 on Apr 13th, 25 on June 15th. Bushy Park (1). Frays N. Lake (3). Grovelands Park (1). Hampstead Heath (2). Springwell Lake (1). Stanwell Moor (1). Stoke Newington Res (2). Max counts: KGV Res, 28 on Dec 14th; Q. Mary Res, 208 on Mar 24th; Staines Res, 96 on Aug 17th.
- Bucks** Old Slade Lake (1). Orlitts Lake North (1). Q. Mother Res, 65 on Feb 4th.
- Kent** Chipstead Lake (3), 30 on Mar 14th. Crystal Palace Park (1). Danson Park (2). Lullingstone (1). Sevenoaks WR (3), 26 on Apr 12th.

- Surrey Gatton Park (6). Holmethorpe SP (2 broods). London Wetland Centre (2+). Richmond Park (1). R. Thames: Hampton (1); Tagg's Island (1-3). R. Wandle (1). S. Norwood Lake (1). Thorpe Water Park, 37 on Jan 13th.
- In Lond Greenland Dock (1), four young seen. Hyde Park (2). Regent's Park (3), two pairs successful, max 10 in Mar. St James's Park (1). R. Thames, Tower Bridge, one on July 4th.

**0010 Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena*  
Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Just three records were received this year, the lowest since 2005, and two of the records below may well relate to the same bird.

- Essex Holyfield Lake, one at N end of lake on Dec 30th (WhG).  
Middx Staines Res, a summer-plumaged adult on June 22nd, 23rd & 29th to July 2nd (GoAP *et al*).  
Surrey Island Barn Res, a summer-plumaged adult on July 20th (HaDM).

**0011 Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*  
Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Just two birds were seen this year, one at Rainham and one seen at both Staines Res and KGVI Res. This represents the poorest year for this species so far in the current millennium.

- Essex Rainham Marshes, one on Aveley Pools from Jan 2nd-3rd (LaP, VaH).  
Middx KGVI Res, one on Nov 2nd, Dec 16th & 28th (MoAV, InRE *et al*). Staines Res, one on Nov 7th and Dec 31st (PuKL).

**0012 Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*  
Status: passage and winter migrant and rare breeder.

A fairly typical year, with numbers similar to recent years on the main sites and a scattering of records elsewhere. Breeding was again confirmed at Site A, following two years in which birds were present but no broods seen. A pair was also seen displaying at Staines Res on Apr 6th, despite steady snowfall, perhaps pair-bonding prior to migrating to their breeding site.

Monthly maxima from the two sites with the highest counts are listed in the table below, followed by records from all other sites. Note that the February count for Wm Girling Res was made from Mansfield Park, so may be a significant underestimate.

Black-necked Grebe		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Wm. Girling Res	29	2	nc	2	-	-	-	23	24	19	23	26
Middx	Staines Res	3	6	11	6	-	1	3	3	4	1	2	-

- Essex Belhus Woods, singles on Feb 9th-10th and Mar 30th. Fairlop Waters, four in summer plumage on Apr 17th, one on Sept 18th.
- Herts Site A, three pairs bred each raising a brood. Bowyers Water (Cheshunt GP), one on Dec 14th.

- Middx KGVI Res, two juv and one ad on Aug 17th, four on Aug 30th, two on Sept 27th, one on 28th, 1-3 on 11 dates from Oct 5th-Nov 3rd and one on Dec 16th.  
 Bucks Q. Mother Res, two on Aug 30th, one on Dec 14th.  
 Surrey QEII Res, three on Mar 27th and two on Sept 26th. Walton Res, juv on Sept 13th.

**2007, Additional records:**

- Surrey Island Barn Res, one on Mar 23rd and Aug 30th. QEII Res, one on Mar 28th and May 5th.

**0020 Fulmar *Fulmaris glacialis***

Status: Rare visitor.

The records below are the first in the LNHS Area since 2003. Assuming that all the Essex/Kent sightings relate to the same three birds, and that the Beddington one the previous day was a different bird, these records bring the London total to 37.

- Essex Rainham Marshes, two on May 26th (VaH, FrP *et al*).  
 Kent Greenhithe, three on May 26th (WrB). R. Thames, Dartford, one on May 26th (RoP).  
 Surrey Beddington SF, one flew low south on May 25th (GuK).

**0046 Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus***

Status: rare visitor, usually in autumn.

Four sightings were reported at a typical time of year, three probably (or perhaps all four) representing the same individual.

- Essex Barking Bay, one on Sept 7th (PeA, DaP) and 8th (MorD).  
 Kent Crossness, one flew west on Sept 8th (Mil).  
 In Lond R. Thames, stranded bird found in bushes in a Paddington housing estate, released at Greenland Pier, Rotherhithe, on Oct. 1st (BoRH, McDT, WaRJ).

**0071 Gannet *Morus bassanus***

Status: scarce visitor.

Recorded for the sixth successive year, bringing the London total to 72.

- Herts Amwell GP, a juv on Sept 22nd (ReB).  
 Middx Isleworth, one on Sept 22nd (McL).  
 Surrey QEII Res, 4th year on water for 10 mins on Sept 30th, then flew W (HaDM).

**0072 Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo***

Status: increasing breeding resident and common on suitable water bodies elsewhere, especially in winter.

This species continues to thrive in the London area, with large numbers present in winter and breeding confirmed in at least six sites.

Unfortunately, once again, no nest count was received from the main breeding site at Walthamstow Res (308 nests in 2005). However, the colony at Broadwater Lake continues to grow, with 46 nests (36 in 2007); the Amwell GP colony remains stable at 15 nests, and breeding was also recorded at three other sites. Nest-building was also attempted at Brent Res, but no young raised.

The table below shows monthly maxima from regularly counted sites with larger flocks. Breeding records (number of nests in brackets) and notable counts from other localities are shown under the sector summaries.

Cormorant		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Middx	Queen Mary Res	-	250	295	-	30	-	-	19	17	14	9	8
Surrey	Island Barn Res	8	13	12	11	3	3	16	36	192	138	15	31
	London Wetl Centre	28	138	27	41	4	6	18	25	70	131	37	19
	QEII Res	170	270	-	35	33	33	67	86	177	190	205	190
	Walton Res	11	27	23	15	2	6	13	28	102	124	62	58

- Essex Fairlop Waters, 60 on Oct 7th. KGV Res, c. 200 on Sept 22nd. Rainham Marshes, 91 on Dec 12th. Walthamstow, 298 on Feb 10th.
- Herts Amwell GP (15), 42 at roost on Dec 28th. Stocker's Lake (3), 45 on Nov 16th. Tyttenhanger GP, 91 on Dec 6th.
- Middx Brent Res (1) pair built nest on island but did not lay. Broadwater Lake (46). Frays Wildfowl Lake (2+). Q. Mary Res (2). Staines Res, 112 on Aug 16th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 144+ on Aug 29th, 260 on Sept 4th.
- Kent Crossness, 50+ on Sept 17th. R. Thames, QEII Bridge, 45 on Jan 5th. Sevenoaks WR, 57 on Nov 16th. Sundridge, 64 on Dec 21st.
- Surrey Holmthorpe SP, 50 on Jan 13th, 51 on Dec 21st. Island Barn Res records included a regularly-visiting Danish bird (no. T8J) during the first winter period, which then returned on Oct 13th. R. Thames, Putney-Barnes, 82 on Oct 19th. Thorpe Water Park, 55 on Jan 13th.

- 0080 Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*  
 Status: irregular visitor, usually in winter, occasionally in good numbers.  
 This year's total, of 8-9 birds, was the highest since 9-10 in 2002.
- Essex Rainham Marshes, one on Oct 8th (VaH). Thames Barrier Park/R.Thames, one on Dec 5th (E-HD).
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, a juv on Aug 15th & 17th (MuS *et al*). Seventy Acres Lake, a juv on Mar 24th (PiJ).
- Middx Staines Res, imm on Feb 12th (PuKL).
- Bucks Q. Mother Res, a juv present since Dec 2007 was seen until Feb 11th; another juv on Aug 26th & 28th (HeCDR *et al*; McMJ *et al*).
- Surrey Beddington SF, one flew west on Aug 29th (AIJP website).

- 0095 Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*  
 Status: scarce winter visitor, often returning to favoured sites.

Records came from only four sites in the first winter period (cf four in 2007 and 13 in 2006) and five sites at the end of the year (the same as 2007).



The Stone record at the very end of the year was the first in Kent since one at Sevenoaks WR in 2006. Amwell GP, Cheshunt GP and the London Wetland Centre all afforded tremendous opportunities to see this fascinating, but usually elusive, bird. Away from these sites, the Bittern remains a scarce, or at least an inconspicuous, species in our Area.

Essex	Berwick Ponds, one on Feb 13th. Ingrebourne Valley, one on Nov 7th; one on Dec 6th.
Herts	Amwell GP, one from Jan 1st-30th, 1-2 from Jan 31st-Feb 4th, then one until Mar 23rd; one from Nov 2nd-Dec 8th. Bowyers Water, one on Jan 16th-17th. Seventy Acres Lake, up to three from Dec 6th to the year end.
Kent	Stone, one flew south on Dec 30th.
Surrey	London Wetland Centre, singles recorded regularly from Jan 1st-Mar 9th, then not until Dec 6th, 1-2 seen regularly after this to the year end, with three on Dec 30th.

**0111 Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*  
Status: rare (but increasing) vagrant.

After three records in 2007, just one well-watched bird was seen in 2008. This was London's 9th record of this species.

Essex	Wm Girling Res, an adult in summer plumage, from Apr 12th-17th; presumably the same individual seen flying over High Maynard Res, Walthamstow, perhaps to roost, at 18:52 on Apr 15th (HuD <i>et al</i> ; LaP).
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**0119 Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*  
Status: rare breeder and visitor in ever increasing frequency and number.

Records continued to increase, with birds seen at c. 135 sites. The Broadwater Lake roost peaked at 49 birds on Feb 23rd (41 in 2007), and the highest count of the year was 56 at Rainham Marshes on July 23rd, which is more than double that site's highest count in 2006. The table below gives monthly maxima for sites with records in at least five months.

Birds bred again at Walthamstow Res, with two pairs nesting initially, fledging broods of four and three young. One of the nests was subsequently used again, either by one of these pairs, or another pair, producing an additional brood of five young.

Little Egret	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex												
Ingrebourne Valley	2	1	6	1	-	9	10	1	-	1	-	2
KGV Res	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	5	1	4	1
Mayesbrook Park	4	3	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	4
Rainham Marshes	3	4	7	11	11	17	56	24	13	10	6	6
Roding Valley Mdws	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1
Walthamstow Res	-	-	1	2	-	7	-	12	-	1	1	-
William Girling Res	-	-	-	2	1	-	11	5	11	1	4	1
Herts												
Amwell GP	13	19	11	1	3	3	-	1	4	2	4	16
Rye Meads	-	-	-	1	1	3	1	2	8	1	2	-
Stocker's Lake	4	1	1	1	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-

Little Egret contd		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Middx	Staines Moor	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	2	-	1	-
	Staines Res	-	1	1	2	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
	Stanwell Moor	-	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1
Bucks	Wraysbury GP	5	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	1
Kent	Crossness	-	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	1
	Dartford Marsh	1	1	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	Sevenoaks WR	1	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	8	14
Surrey	Beddington SF	3	5	5	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	3	3
	Holmethorpe SP	1	1	1	3	1	-	4	-	-	2	3	3
	London Wetland Ctr	1	1	-	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1

In Lond Regent's Park, singles flew east on Oct 13th and Nov 26th. On Feb 22nd a free-flying bird, of unknown origin, was seen in London Zoo.

0121 **Great Egret** *Ardea alba*

Status: rare vagrant.

Four records, comprising five birds from three sites, made 2008 a record year for this species in the London Area.

Essex Rainham Marshes, one on June 4th & 7th, two on June 8th and one flying SE across the Thames at 10:20 on Sept 9th (SmJ *et al*; VaH *et al*; SmJ).

Surrey Beddington SF, on Sept 21st, 08:45, an adult flew in from the north, before spending an hour on the lake (PrF and PrG). Holmethorpe SP, one on Dec 22nd at 08:35, circled over Mercer's Lake, but did not land (JaGJ).

0122 **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

Status: common breeding resident.

A total of c. 478 nests was reported, a small increase on the 456 nests in 2007. However, this figure includes counts for some heronries that were not counted in 2007, and once again there were no counts from several well-known heronries, including Kempton Park NR and Wraysbury GP, so the true position remains unclear. Most counted sites seemed to have a stable or increasing number of nests. Details of all heronries for which we have data are given below, with the no. of nests in brackets, followed by a few of the highest counts. (Note that Sutton Place, included in the yearly breeding records in LBR 2007, is outside the LNHS Area (near Guildford).

Essex Ingrebourne Valley (11). Mayesbrook Park (3). Netherhall GP (44). Warren Gorge (2). Waltham Abbey (2-3). Walthamstow Res (80). Rainham Marshes, 47 on July 24th.

Herts Amwell GP (25). Frogmore GP (6). Stocker's Lake (c. 40). Verulamium Park (22).

Middx Brent Res (1), a nest built but no eggs laid. Broadwater Lake (15). Frays Wildfowl Lake (6). Little Britain Lake (8). Yiewsley Lake (2).

Kent Crystal Palace Park (1) but nest attacked by crows. Kelsey Park (31). Swanscombe Marsh (9).

Surrey Beddington Park (6). Bookham Common (16). R. Thames: Brentford Aits (25); Corporation Island, Richmond (15); Isleworth Ait (7). Gatton Park (32). Horton CP (10). Morden Hall Park (11). Richmond Park (10). Watermeads, Mitcham (6). Beddington SF, 51 on Aug 1st and Sept 1st.

In Lond Battersea Park (3+) at least three nests with young. Regent's Park (29).

**0134 White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*  
Status: rare visitor.

Middx Maida Vale, one flying overhead on Aug 30th (McDT).

**0136 Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*  
Status: rare vagrant.

This is only the third record for the LNHS area, the first being in 1974, at Swanscombe and West Thurrock Marshes, and the second, perhaps an escaped bird, around Totteridge Common in the summer of 1977. With a surge in UK records in recent years, we might expect to see more of this impressive bird. Rainham is as likely a site as any to receive further visits.

Essex Rainham Marshes, one flew E on Oct 21st (CoP).

**0144 Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*  
Status: rare migrant not recorded annually.

After a bumper year in 2007, there were just three records in 2008, all from single observers. The Surrey bird was seen from a passing train.

Herts Amwell GP, one flew NE at 17:45 on May 5th (vSJH).  
Middx Alexandra Park, one on Aug 31st (CoJ).  
Surrey Berrylands SF, one on Apr 28th (PrH).

**0231 Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*  
Status: scarce visitor.

There were nine records representing a total of eight or nine birds this year, comprising two in spring (May), one in mid-summer (July) and the remaining 5-6 between Sept 14th and 29th in autumn. Some duplication of sightings as birds moved south over the area is possible. This is the best year in London since the huge influx of 161 birds in 2000.

Herts Hertford, one on July 21st (ReS).  
Middx Clissold Park, one on Sept 14th. Stoke Newington Res, one on May 30th (both PeMJ).  
Bucks Langley Park, a juvenile on Sept 22nd (B-TP).  
Surrey Banstead, one on Sept 19th (GaSW). Beddington SF, one on Sept 20th and 29th (GaNJ; JPAW). Raynes Park, one on Sept 29th (NT).  
In Lond Regent's Park, a single on May 7th (DuAR).

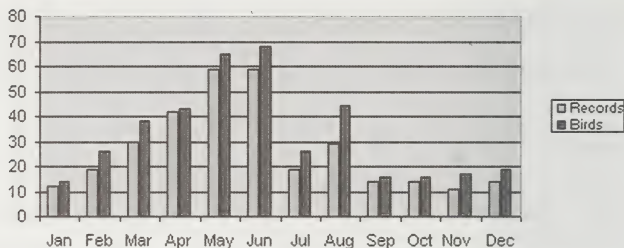
0239

**Red Kite***Milvus milvus*

Status: scarce but increasing visitor within the LNHS Area.

The number of sightings of this supreme raptor continues to increase across London. About 325 sightings were reported in 2008, showing a steady build up during the first four months of the year, followed by a clear peak in May and June (slightly later than recent years). However, it is now becoming more difficult to assess the total number of birds seen, as many of the records concern birds being seen regularly in certain areas.

The histogram below shows a marked peak from March-June, with 59% of all sightings occurring in this period (though less obvious than in the last few years, with 77% in March-June in 2007 and 85% in 2006). Lower numbers followed from July onwards (to February 2009). Where these birds are coming from is uncertain, but there is no doubt that they are becoming an increasingly regular and welcome sight across the region.

**Red kite sightings in the London Area, 2008**

No sightings involved more than three birds together and many of these were close to potential breeding areas. One pair bred successfully, raising two youngsters at Site A, where they bred in 2007, and another pair was seen displaying, though without further evidence of breeding. Records for Inner London are listed below.

In Lond Regent's Park, one on May 10th and two on July 26th.

0260

**Marsh Harrier***Circus aeruginosus*

Status: scarce, but increasing passage migrant.

Another good year with 47 records of 52 birds (47 records of 49 birds in 2007). The table below gives records month by month (no records in Jan, Nov or Dec). Once again, a clear peak shows in April, with three records on both Apr 20th and Sept 15th. About 60% of records came from Rainham Marshes, which now provides sufficient habitat for passage birds to linger for a while.

**Marsh Harrier sightings**

Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct
2	6	13	6	1	2	5	7	5

- Essex Ingrebourne Valley, one on Apr 9th and May 3rd. KGV Res, one on May 4th. Rainham Marshes, singles on Feb 6th & 28th, Mar 21st & 30th-31st; one on Apr 3rd, two on 13th, one on 16th, two on 19th and one on 20th; singles on May 5th-8th and May 17th-June 4th; singles on July 22nd & 27th, with two on July 28th and one on 29th; two on Aug 4th, singles on Aug 8th, 16th-17th & 23rd-30th and two on 31st; two on Sept 7th, one on 8th-17th and one on Oct 11th. West Thurrock, one on Sept 15th.
- Herts Amwell GP, singles on Apr 3rd and Sept 13th. Hilfield Park Res, one on Mar 20th. Rye Meads, singles on Feb 16th and Apr 2nd.
- Middx KGV Res, one on Mar 15th. Staines Moor, one on Apr 20th and Oct 12th. Staines Res, one on Apr 27th and Oct 12th. Tottenham Marsh, one on Apr 8th and Sept 25th.
- Bucks Horton GP, one on Apr 21st. Q. Mother Res, one on Mar 15th and Oct 15th. Crossness, one on July 28th. Keston, one on Sept 21st.
- Kent Beddington SF, one on May 1st. London Wetland Centre, one on Mar 9th, Apr 18th & 20th, Sept 15th and Oct 12th. QEII Res, one on May 8th.
- Surrey Tenchleys, one on Aug 12th. Woldingham, one on June 21st.

**0261 Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

Status: scarce migrant; formerly a regular winter visitor to the Thames marshes.

About 6-7 individuals were seen in 2008, including two cracking spring males; surprisingly there were no records from Rainham Marshes.

- Essex Holyfield Lake, a ringtail on Dec 26th flying south (WoR).
- Herts Otterspool, nr Aldenham, a juvenile on Feb 12th (TeJ).
- Middx Northolt, one on Nov 1st (McDT).
- Surrey Beddington SF, an adult male flew NW on Apr 21st (AJJP). Chelsham, an adult male flew S on Apr 10th (ThBJ, ThS). Richmond Park, a ringtail flew over on Oct 31st (LeM).

**2000, Additional record:**

**0263 Montagu's Harrier** *Circus pygargus*

Status: rare migrant.

The sighting below, previously reported in *LBR* no. 65 as Harrier spp, has now been accepted as a Montagu's Harrier. This species has since been seen in 2001 and 2006, bringing the London total to 22.

- Surrey Chelsham, one on Aug 12th (ThBJ).

**0269 Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Status: common breeding resident.

A similar number of sightings of this common raptor were reported to last year (1,128 in 2008; about 1,200 in 2007) perhaps suggesting that this species is reaching saturation point. As last year, more than half the records came from the Surrey sector, followed by Essex, Middx, Kent and Herts (although a paucity of records from Herts outside the breeding

season suggests a lack of recording). Just seven species were recorded as prey items, perhaps the most unusual being a Sand Martin.

Breeding records are summarised in the table below. The number of reported territories was fewer than in the previous two years (87 in 2007 and 119 in 2006), but the number of proved breeding pairs was similar to last year (24 in 2007). The highest number of breeding pairs reported was in Herts, followed by Surrey and Kent. The Sparrowhawk has clearly become a highly successful breeding bird in the London Area and the figures below most probably represent just the tip of the iceberg.

#### Sparrowhawk

	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
Territories	1	19	9	0	0	15	0	44
Breeding proved	1	9	7	0	0	8	0	25

In Lond Records were received from: Hyde Park & Kensington Gdns, Lambeth (several sightings from the Lambeth Road), Regent's Park (up to six), Soho Square, Tower Bridge and the Tower of London.

#### 0287 Common Buzzard

*Buteo buteo*

Status: scarce but increasing breeder, regular migrant/visitor.

Rather surprisingly, the Common Buzzard is now the most commonly reported raptor in the LNHS area, though this is more of a reflection of its visibility and the fact that almost all sightings are probably submitted to recorders, in contrast with more common species. Nonetheless, it provides clear evidence that this dramatic raptor is going from strength to strength in our Area. The Herts sector remains the most favoured with about 65% of all records, but Middx, Surrey and Essex are catching up!

A minimum of 38 pairs were present during the breeding season, of which at least 22 raised young, though it is likely that many others also bred (cf 16 pairs present in 2007). The majority were in Herts, largely reflecting the efforts of one observer (EvC). Only a proper survey would provide a truer picture of the species' breeding status across our Area, but there is no doubt that it is continuing to increase.

The peak months were April, May and Sept, reflecting the passage of birds across the region, and the most impressive movements took place in autumn with 17 birds moving over Holmethorpe SP on Aug 30th, 13 over Beddington on Sept 14th (also a day of marked Honey Buzzard passage across London) and another 13 over Rainham Marshes on Sept 20th.

Essex	Two pairs bred successfully, another pair present in the breeding season.
Herts	Seven pairs bred successfully, at least a further 19 pairs possibly bred.
Middx	At least one territorial pair present during the summer, may have bred.
Kent	Three pairs present in the breeding season, one pair bred successfully.
Surrey	Five pairs present in the breeding season; one pair bred successfully.
In Lond	Regent's Park, about 20 birds seen over the park during the year.



**Correction to 2007:**

A corrected Table 1 of Peter Oliver's paper, "The establishment of the Common Buzzard as a breeding species in the London Area" (*LBR* 2007, page 200) is given on page 230.

- 0301 Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*  
 Status: scarce passage migrant.
- This stunning piscivore broke all previous records with an astonishing 57 records this year, easily beating the previous best of 31 in 2006. It is likely that there was some duplication of birds seen between sites in autumn - a time of year when juveniles tend to loiter for a while particularly if they locate a friendly trout farm!
- The first bird of the year was one over Balham on Mar 19th. Four more March records were followed by a steady passage of 13 birds in April (including two on 12th and three on 13th) with six in May bringing the spring to a close. A single midsummer bird was spotted in June. The first returning bird of autumn was one flying over Staines Res on Aug 21st. However, September really hit the jackpot with an impressive 28 records, including three on 7th, two on 8th, three on 13th and a remarkable eight on 14th - clearly conditions were ideal for southbound migration at this time. Another three records followed in October, with the last sighting at Hampermill, Watford on Oct 18th.
- Essex** Chafford Hundred, one on Oct 11th. Hackney Marsh, one on May 18th. KGV Res, one on Sept 16th. Leyton, one on Sept 14th. Rainham Marshes, one on Mar 29th, Sept 7th & 19th. Walthamstow Res, one on May 5th and Sept 14th.
- Herts** Amwell GP, singles on Sept 7th, 14th & 15th. Beech Farm GP, one on Sept 9th. Cheshunt, one on Sept 3rd. Elstree, one on Sept 19th. Hampermill Lake, one on Oct 18th. Hertingfordbury, one on Mar 30th. Panshanger Park, one from Sept 14th-21st. Rye Meads, one on May 2nd. Tyttenhanger GP, singles on Apr 12th, 13th & 17th.
- Middx** Alexandra Park, singles on Sept 14th & 18th. Brent Res, singles on Apr 4th & 13th and May 3rd. Bow, one on Sept 11th. Heathrow, T5, one on May 7th. KGV Res, one on Sept 13th. Ruislip Lido, one on Mar 25th. Staines Res, one on Aug 21st. Tottenham Marsh, one on Sept 14th. Enfield, one on Sept 6th.
- Bucks** Hythe End, Wraysbury, one on Sept 14th. Langley Park, singles on Sept 22nd & 27th. Q. Mother Res, singles on Apr 28th, Sept 4th & 8th.
- Kent** Dartford Marshes, two on Sept 13th.
- Surrey** Balham, one on Mar 19th. Banstead, one on Apr 13th and June 12th. Beddington SF, one on Mar 27th, two on May 3rd, singles on May 16th, Sept 7th, 8th & 14th. Holmethorpe SP, singles on Apr 5th, 6th & 20th. London Wetland Centre, one on Apr 13th and Sept 13th. Walton-on-the-Hill, one on Sept 19th.
- In Lond** Battersea Park, one on Apr 12th.

**0304 Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus***

Status: common breeding resident.

Just 24 pairs were proved to have bred in 2008 - a decline on 33 pairs last year - although at least another 38 pairs were on territory and may well have bred (cf 2006 - 99 pairs present; 2005 - 113 pairs present, 81 proved to have bred). The highest number of pairs reported was in the Herts sector, and - as with Common Buzzard - this reflects the efforts of one observer (EvC). If a proper census could be carried out across the whole LNHS Area it is likely to come up with many more pairs (e.g. at least 45 pairs were reported from Surrey in 2006, but only 11 this year). However, there have been worrying reports of a decline in Kestrels nationwide, and with one of their major prey items in London, the House Sparrow, also declining, it is important to see if this is reflected in London. The highest count of the year was of eight birds at Beech Farm GP, on Aug 24th.

Kestrel	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
Proved	2	9	9	0	0	2	2	24
Probable	1	26	1	0	2	9	0	39
Overall total	3	35	10	0	2	11	2	63

In Lond Regent's Park, two pairs bred. Stockwell (1) pair nested in a hole in a block of flats. Tower Bridge, one on May 21st and Oct 1st.

**0307 Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus***

Status: rare spring, summer and autumn visitor.

This year's sightings are the first since 1999, and represent the 10th and 11th London records. All but one of the London records have been in spring. The Seventy Acres Lake bird proved to be a popular draw providing good views to many observers.

Herts Seventy Acres Lake, a 1st-year female from May 15th-21st, also seen at Sewardstone Marsh on May 21st (SmA, SmT *et al*).

Bucks Colnbrook, a female on May 31st seen from the Colnbrook bypass from 18.30 to 18.50 when it drifted off to the north (HeCDR).

**0309 Merlin *Falco columbarius***

Status: scarce migrant and winter visitor.

This year a total of c. 35 sightings was reported - fairly evenly split between the two halves of the year. However, the number of birds seen was probably closer to 24, as there was clearly some duplication in the Rainham records. The last spring sighting was at Island Barn Res on Apr 16th and the first of the autumn at Regent's Park on Sept 8th.

Essex Chafford Hundred, one on Dec 24th. Holyfield Hall Farm, one on Nov 6th. Ingrebourne Valley, singles on Jan 5th and Nov 30th. Lambourne End, one on Jan 5th. Leyton Flats, one on Oct 13th. Orsett, one on Mar 3rd. Rainham Marshes, singles on Jan 2nd, 6th & 7th, Feb 14th, 16th & 24th, Mar 20th & 23rd, Apr 11th, Sept 21st & 23rd, Nov 23rd and Dec 2nd, 20th & 21st, with two seen on Jan 13th and Feb 17th.

- Middx Colindale, one on Nov 15th.  
 Bucks Q. Mother Res, one on Oct 4th.  
 Surrey Beddington SF, one on Nov 1st. Island Barn Res, one on Apr 16th. London Wetland Centre, singles on Mar 4th and Oct 16th, 22nd & 26th. QEII Res, one on Oct 8th. S. Norwood CP, one on Mar 27th.  
 In Lond Regent's Park, one on Sept 8th.

## 0310 Hobby

*Falco subbuteo*

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first bird of the year was seen over Regent's Park on Apr 4th, followed by a rather more organised arrival from Apr 13th, with singles at Ashtead and Beddington SF on Apr 13th; a further 70 birds were seen by the end of the month, with peaks of 11 on the 26th and eight on the 29th. There were sightings every day in May, with peak flocks of up to ten at Amwell GP on the 27th, and an impressive 21 at Seventy Acres Lake on the 21st, where consistently high counts were made all month.



The only high counts in autumn were seven over the Ingrebourne Valley on July 15th, Rye Meads on Aug 9th and Rainham Marshes on Sept 21st. Sightings continued daily in September up to 28th, but just seven sightings followed in October, with the last one at Island Barn Res on Oct 15th.

The table below summarises breeding records, though disappointingly there were no breeding reports from Bucks, Kent or Inner London. The overall total of 16 proved and probable breeding records is a slight improvement on 12 in 2007, but still well down on the record of 33 in 2006. As suggested last year, this is unlikely to be a true reflection of the total breeding population and there is no reason to think that this species is anything other than healthy and perhaps increasing in the LNHS Area. Overall there were nearly 1,000 records throughout the year - a good indication of this species' familiar presence as a summer visitor in our area.

Details of Inner London records are given in the notes.

## Hobby pairs breeding

	Essex	Herts	Middx	Surrey	Total
Proved	1	3	3	1	8
Probable	0	5	2	1	8
Total	1	8	5	2	16

- In Lond Regent's Park, singles on Apr 4th & 22nd were the only spring records; there were 11 autumn records between July 31st and Oct 10th.

- 0320 Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*  
 Status: an increasingly regular resident, scarce breeder, and winter visitor.
- Although there were over 600 records (another annual record) nearly half came from just three sites - Beddington SF (99), London Wetland Centre (115) and Rainham Marshes (74). Birds were seen throughout the year at Rainham and at least two other sites. Whilst one might realistically expect to see one of these magnificent falcons on a visit to one of these key sites, the Peregrine remains a notable sighting on most people's patches. Sightings were scattered fairly evenly throughout the year, with rather more records in winter, and November, with 71, the peak month.
- An impressive 15 pairs attempted to breed, four of them successfully fledging a total of nine young (record courtesy Dave Morrison); all these figures represent an increase on the equivalent figure for 2007. Although several pairs were known to have failed, some of the 11 others may well have raised young. Rather alarmingly, one previous and well-known nesting site had been covered in netting, with its perching poles removed, presumably to deter the birds. Hopefully many nesting sites will be inaccessible to human access.
- Essex Recorded from c. 25 localities (140 records), the most regular being Rainham Marshes, where up to four were seen together. Five pairs were present: two bred successfully, raising broods of three and one young.
- Herts 35 records from 13 localities, most involving single birds, but two were seen on several occasions in the Lea Valley and Rye Meads. The majority were seen in the Upper Lea Valley, with a few in the Colne Valley, St Albans area and Tyttenhanger.
- Middx 30 records from at least ten localities; nearly half came from the Staines area, where at least four birds were seen during the year. There were four records of single birds from Alexandra Park and two from Ponders End and Tower Hamlets. Two pairs were present, one raising two young.
- Bucks Seen most months at Q. Mother Res, at least three birds involved, but no more than two together, also several sightings at Horton GP and Wraysbury GP.
- Kent 29 records from 16 sites, most from Crossness (up to two birds), Albany Park and Sevenoaks WR. Two pairs were seen, but breeding not proven.
- Surrey 329 records from 25 sites, but two-thirds were from Beddington SF and London Wetland Centre. Two birds were seen at Beddington SF, QEII Res and Whyteleafe and up to three at London Wetland Centre and Riddlesdown. Two pairs were present, but breeding not proven.
- In Lond Recorded from Hyde Park & Kensington Gdns, Lambeth Bridge, Regent's Park (14 sightings) and Tate Modern (up to two birds). Records from several other sites are omitted owing to proximity of nest sites. Four pairs were present, at least one successfully raised three young.
- 0407 Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*  
 Status: common, but elusive, winter visitor; scarce breeder.

Reported from 69 sites, the same number as in 2007. Breeding behaviour was noted or young seen at seven sites, with a calling bird during the breeding season at one further site, making a total of c. 11 pairs (up on four pairs in 2007, but well down on 22 pairs in 2006). All breeding records are given (no. of pairs or broods in brackets) followed by some of the highest counts of wintering birds (counts of two or more within the London boroughs and three or more elsewhere).

- Essex Cornmill Meadows (1). Brentwood, three on Jan 14th. Grange Waters, three on Dec 24th. Ingrebourne Valley, eight on Dec 9th. Mayesbrook Park, two on Mar 12th. Rainham Marshes, 22 on Dec 12th. Walthamstow Res, two on Jan 24th and Feb 15th. West Thurrock Marshes, three on Feb 23rd.
- Herts Amwell GP (1), five on Dec 30th. Maple Lodge NR (1), two on Feb 3rd. Rye Meads (4), eight on four dates from Jan 11th-June 1st. Hilfield Park Res, six on Nov 2nd. Seventy Acres Lake, 12 on Dec 7th. Stocker's & Bury Lakes, three on Dec 8th. Tyttenhanger GP, four on Mar 2nd.
- Middx Alexandra Park, two on Jan 1st and Oct 17th. Brent Res, six on Nov 11th. Stoke Newington Res, three in each winter period.
- Bucks Horton GP (1), three on Oct 2nd.
- Kent Swanscombe Marsh (1), 13 on Dec 30th. Footh Cray Meadows, two on Feb 4th. Sevenoaks WR, five on Nov 11th.
- Surrey London Wetland Centre (1), 18 on Feb 17th. Richmond Park, Pen Ponds (1), eight on Dec 22nd. Holmethorpe SP, three on Mar 1st and Dec 29th. Spencer Rd Wetland (Hackbridge) two on Jan 5th, Feb 2nd and Dec 21st.
- In Lond Regent's Park, one from Feb 28th-end Mar; two from Nov 17th to end Dec.

**0424 Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus***  
 Status: very common breeding resident.

One of our commonest water birds, recorded at 118 sites (Essex: 32, Herts: 16, Middx: 12, Kent: 6 and Surrey: 42), which is close to last year's total of 115 sites, and no doubt birds were present at many more lakes and ponds across the Area. Breeding was reported from 28 sites (Essex: 11, Herts: 4, Middx: 6, Kent: 2 and Surrey: 15) but again these figures must be only a fraction of the total breeding population. The notes below list sites with five or more nesting pairs (no. of pairs in brackets), followed by the highest counts outside the breeding season for sites with 30+ birds. No records were received from Inner London, though birds were surely present, at least in Regent's Park.

- Essex Highams Park Lake (5). Belhus Woods CP, 40 on Mar 9th. Mar Dyke Valley, Davy Down, 35 on Jan 14th. Rainham Marshes, 113 on Nov 14th. Walthamstow Res, 68 on Feb 10th. Weald Park, 47 on Jan 22nd.
- Herts Aldenham Res (6), 51 on Nov 16th. Hampermill, 54 on Dec 11th. Hilfield Park Res, 39 on Oct 19th. Howe Green, 32 on Jan 19th. Maple Lodge NR, 40 on Mar 12th. Otterspool, 70 on Nov 16th. Rye Meads 143 on Sept 12th.
- Middx Brent Res, 76 on Nov 16th. Bushy Park, 55 on Nov 27th.
- Kent Danson Park, 44 on Dec 16th. Sevenoaks WR, 45 on Jan 2nd.

Surrey Beddington SF (40), 122 on Nov 1st. R. Wandle, Carshalton-Morden Hall Park (47), 180 on Dec 29th. S. Norwood CP (c. 11). Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (12). London Wetland Centre (at least 10); 57 juv on July 1st; 285 on Nov 26th.

0429 Coot

*Fulica atra*

Status: very common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Recorded at 128 sites (Essex: 30, Herts: 27, Middx: 15, Bucks: 4, Kent: 3, Surrey: 48 and In Lond: 1), compared with 123 last year. However, like the Moorhen, this species is certainly under-recorded. Breeding was noted at 48 sites (Essex: 13, Herts: 9, Middx: 6, Kent: 2 and Surrey: 17) but again, the figures represent no more than a tiny fraction of the breeding population. Sites with ten or more pairs are listed below, with numbers of pairs, nests or broods in brackets, followed by some of the highest counts (100+ in outer parts of the LNHS Area, 30 or more in inner city localities).

Essex Epping Forest, Connaught Water (9+). Belhus Woods CP, 163 on Dec 14th. Holyfield Lake, 955 on Nov 30th. Mayesbrook Park, 97 on Nov 29th. Walthamstow Res, 297 on Feb 10th.

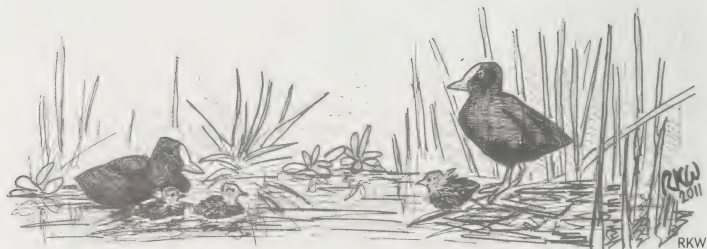
Herts Aldenham Res (18), 196 on Oct 19th. Amwell GP (40), 355 on Dec 13th. Bowyers Water GP, 570 on Dec 14th. Broxbourne GP, 215 on Jan 12th. Hilfield Park Res, 405 on Aug 17th. Rye Meads, 666 on Sept 12th. Seventy Acres Lake, 260 on Jan 19th. Stocker's & Bury Lakes, 361 on Dec 14th.

Middx Alexandra Park (c. 16). Horsendon Hill (6). Brent Res, 734 on Nov 16th. Bedfont & Ashford GP, 348 on Feb 24th. Broadwater Lake, 650 on July 31st. Broomfield Park, 50 on Nov 14th. Finsbury Park, 38 on Jan 6th. KGVI Res, 393 on Nov 22nd.

Kent Danson Park, 62 on Mar 29th.

Surrey Beddington SF (21), 220 on Aug 16th. Holmethorpe SP (10), 169 on Sept 25th. London Wetland Centre (10+), 55 juv on July 4th, 253 on Feb 17th. Richmond Park (6+), 240 on Jan 3rd. R. Wandle, Carshalton-Morden Hall Park (25). Wimbledon Common (12), 319 on Sept 7th. Thorpe Water Park, 477 on Jan 13th.

In Lond Regent's Park, 120 max (no date).





- 0450**     **Oystercatcher**     *Haematopus ostralegus*  
 Status: localised breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.
- As usual, the highest counts came from sites along the Thames, but there was also a good scattering of records from elsewhere (mainly reservoirs and gravel pits). Apart from four sightings in the first half of November, this year's records all relate to the period between early February and the first week of September, with the highest counts during spring and autumn passage, March-April and July-August. Two pairs bred successfully, at Crossness and Tyttenhanger GP, with two other possible pairs.
- The notes below summarise all sightings, with breeding records listed first (no. of breeding/territorial pairs in brackets). If no other data is given, site records are simply dates when single birds were seen.
- Essex**     W. Thurrock Marshes (2), two pairs in June, up to five during March, two on Sept 6th and Nov 7th. Barking Outfall, four on Apr 19th and one on Nov 2nd. Beckton, Apr 14th. Fairlop Waters, Apr 3rd. Creekmouth, Barking, two on Feb 24th, seven on Mar 22nd and eight on Apr 13th. Fishers Green Goosefield, Apr 5th. KGV Res, Apr 22nd. Rainham Marshes, seen regularly from Mar 5th-Aug 21st, seven on May 4th, two on Nov 1st. Walthamstow Res, two on Apr 20th, one on Apr 27th and June 26th.
- Herts**     Tyttenhanger GP (1), at least one chick hatched; 1-2 adults present from Mar 6th-July 23rd. Amwell GP, seen regularly from Mar 13th-July 17th, two on several dates in June and on July 17th. Bushey Heath, May 18th. Hilfield Park Res, Feb 23rd, Apr 4th and May 18th. Lynster's Farm/Maple Lodge NR, Apr 20th-June 1st. Radlett, two flew N on July 4th. Rye Meads, 1-2 on eight dates from June 7th-July 11th. Stocker's Farm, May 18th-23rd. Stocker's Lake, July 17th.
- Middx**     Brent Res, two on Mar 3rd, one on May 11th. E. India Dock Basin, two on May 12th. Q. Mary Res, two o/h on Aug 17th. Staines Res, one on Feb 26th, two on-Mar 16th, 1-2 in May, four on July 21st and one on Aug 20th & 29th.
- Bucks**     Horton GP, Apr 21st and May 18th. Q. Mother Res, one on Apr 30th and May 3rd, two on May 15th and one on 31st, one on Aug 16th and Sept 7th.
- Kent**     Crossness (1), at least two young raised; seen regularly from Feb 9th-Aug 30th, seven on Apr 20th, 11 on July 9th and 12 on Aug 11th. Crayford Marshes, June 18th. Dartford, Mar 15th. Greenhithe, two on Mar 2nd and May 25th, one on Sept 7th. Northfleet, two on Aug 30th. R. Thames, QEII Bridge-Swanscombe, two on Feb 10th, Mar 9th & 29th. Swanscombe Marsh, one on Feb 17th, two on Apr 4th, one on Apr 20th and June 17th.
- Surrey**     Beddington SF, two flew E on Aug 29th. London Wetland Centre, Feb 13th, Apr 8th & 12th, May 22nd, July 8th and five dates in Aug. QE II Res, Apr 21st, May 5th, July 26th & 27th and Aug 9th. R. Thames (Mortlake), July 4th. Walton Res, Apr 12th and Nov 12th.

- 0456**     **Avocet**     *Recurvirostra avosetta*  
 Status: a scarce visitor in all months of the year; occasional breeder.

Following a disappointing year in 2007, some good winter counts of 20 or more birds were reported at West Thurrock - though this is still an

insignificant number compared to the flocks that can sometimes be seen a little further down the estuary, just outside the LNHS Area, at East Tilbury (980 on Feb 22nd, Essex Bird Report, 2008). Once again a pair attempted to breed at the London Wetland Centre, but later deserted the nest.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, two on Apr 5th (seen earlier at Walthamstow Res), one on May 11th. Rainham Marshes, seen on 21 dates from Mar 15th-June 5th, peaks of eight from May 5th-8th; five on June 16th. Walthamstow Res, two on Apr 5th, flew off N; two on Apr 6th. W. Thurrock Marshes, 23 on the water at high tide on Jan 4th; 22 on Feb 23rd, 18 on Mar 6th, one on Mar 11th and 15 on Dec 8th.
- Herts Tyttenhanger GP, one on Apr 17th.
- Middx Staines Res, one on May 3rd flew off W at 08:30, but returned in the evening; one on May 6th.
- Kent Dartford Marshes, two on Mar 15th.
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, a pair, which were present from May 13th-June 25th, laid three eggs by May 23rd, incubated until 28th, but apparently abandoned the nest by May 30th; one in flight along R. Thames on Jan 24th. QEII Res, singles on Apr 5th & 17th and Dec 27th; two on May 6th. Walton Res, one on Apr 5th.

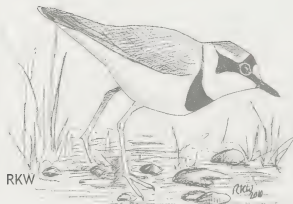
**0459 Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicanus***  
Status: a scarce passage migrant.

Another good year for this scarce migrant. As last year, four sightings were recorded, three during the spring and one during the autumn passage.

- Essex Rainham Marshes, singles on Mar 30th (RSPB *et al*) and Apr 16th (TWA *et al*). Sewardstone Marsh, one circled the horse paddocks before flying off east at about 11:50 on Aug 30th (WoR).
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, one during the evening of May 10th (SiF *et al*).

**0469 Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius***  
Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

Just as last year, the first bird of the year was seen on March 7th in the Lea Valley; this was a singleton on KGV Res, and still present the following day (assuming it was the same bird). Another single followed on March 9th at Rainham Marshes, with the main arrival from March 14th. Spring passage again seemed to be fairly light, with 11 on April 9th at Walton Res the highest count. Six were seen at Sevenoaks WR on May 28th and peaks of five were recorded at four other sites.



Only nine pairs were confirmed as breeding, at least six producing young, though three were known to have failed. It is hoped that the low numbers reflect

under-reporting rather than a genuine lack of pairs (eg no breeding reports were received from Essex). However, this species' preference for almost bare habitats means that breeding may only occur for a year or two before the habitat becomes unsuitable.

In the table below, confirmed breeding refers to the no. of pairs with nests or broods, probably breeding indicates pairs seen displaying and/or mating, and possible breeding refers to the presence of two or more during May and June, but without other signs of breeding.

Little Ringed Plover	Confirmed breeding	Probably breeding	Other pairs present	Total
Essex	0	0	3	3
Herts	1	0	5	6
Middx	2	1	3	6
Bucks	2	0	0	2
Kent	1	1	2	4
Surrey	3	1	3	7
Total	9	3	16	28

During late June-July, some evidence of post-breeding gatherings and/or passage migration was apparent, with peaks of five or more together at seven sites, and birds turning up at several locations where they had not been seen since the spring. The highest counts were 12 at Dartford Marshes on July 9th, 15 at Rainham Marshes on July 15th (and double figures on six other days) and 13 at Sevenoaks WR on July 2nd. The numbers reported dropped off rapidly after mid-July, with only a handful seen during August, though there were four reports of singles during September, with the last one at Walthamstow Res on Sept 24th.

**0470 Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*  
 Status: localised breeder, common passage migrant, and winter visitor.

As usual, small flocks of wintering birds were seen at sites along the Thames during both winter periods, though an exceptionally large flock of c. 250 was seen at Rainham Marshes on Nov 13th. Elsewhere, widespread sightings were reported between February and October, as birds moved through on spring and autumn passage, or sought out suitable nest sites.

Four attempts at breeding were reported, at least two pairs producing young, though some were unsuccessful or the outcome is unclear, and at least one other pair probably attempted to breed. Breeding records, with nos. of pairs in brackets, followed by some of the highest counts and a few other records of interest, are summarised below.

- Essex Barking Bay, up to 14 in late Aug-early Sept. Rainham Marshes, peak counts of 42 in Jan, 30 in Feb, 40 in May, 26 in Aug, 33 in Sept, 25 in Oct, 250 in Nov and 40 in Dec.
- Herts Amwell GP (1), one pair nested, hatching at least two young. Radlett Aero GP (1), one pair nested, but no young seen, 1-4 in March. Tyttenhanger GP (1?), juv seen on July 2nd & 11th; 1-2 seen regularly from Feb 23rd-Oct 8th, with five on Mar 23rd.

- Midxx Brent Res, six on May 16th. Staines Res, five on Feb 17th and May 25th.  
 Bucks Horton GP (1), breeding attempted but no young seen; 1-3 from Mar 15th-July 20th, a flock of 19 (thought to be race *tundrae*) on May 25th. Q. Mother Res, four on May 25th and two on Aug 4th.
- Kent Dartford Marshes, juv seen on July 26th; 31 on Dec 17th. Swanscombe Marsh (1) probably bred. Greenhithe, 32 on Sept 11th. R. Thames, QEI Bridge-Swanscombe, 27 on Jan 5th.
- Surrey Walton Res (1), one pair bred, raising three young. Beddington SF, spring peak of 29 on May 25th, autumn peak of nine on Aug 14th. London Wetland Centre, peak of eight on May 28th; several spring individuals were thought by their observers to be of the *tundrae* race.

**0485 European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria***

Status: regular winter visitor to some of the outer parts of the LNHS Area, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor elsewhere.

As usual, the vast majority of sightings occurred during the winter months between October and April, and almost all were in the Essex and Herts sectors, Herts having the largest flocks. Elsewhere in our Area, this species remains a scarce passage and winter migrant. The last bird of spring and the first of autumn were seen on May 28th and July 24th respectively at Rainham Marshes. In the notes below, a summary of records (including peak counts in each winter period) is given for Essex and Herts, with greater detail provided for other sectors.

- Essex Reports came from ten sites, though at some of these birds were only seen in flight. Walthamstow Res, 15 flew S on Aug 3rd. Cely Woods, Thames Chase, 100 on Dec 28th. Chingford, three flew over on Dec 11th. Cornmill Meadows, 38 on Dec 26th. Dagenham Chase, 28 flew over on Mar 20th, one on Dec 27th. Fairlop Waters, 125 on Feb 17th and 80 on Nov 23rd. Hornchurch, 50 on Dec 25th. Ingrebourne Valley, monthly peaks of 450 in Jan, 155 in Feb, 250 in Mar, falling to 70 in Apr, then 50 in Oct and 25 in Nov. Mayesbrook Park, 17 on Mar 17th. Rainham Marshes, monthly peaks of 500 in Jan, 300 in Feb, 320 in Mar and 130 in Apr, then 29 in Oct, 250 in Nov and 420 in Dec.
- Herts Reports came from 27 sites, including some regular wintering sites. Those with 50+ birds are listed. Chiswell Green, 300 on Mar 22nd and 150 on Nov 9th. Farmland by M25 junction 21 (near Chiswell Green) 128 on Dec 31st. Oylers Farm, monthly maxima: 650 in Jan, 1,000 in Feb, 650 in Mar, 150 in Nov and 128 in Dec. Hatfield Garden Village, 901 on Feb 12th; 500 on Nov 18th. Woodoaks Farm, 2,500 in Jan, 100 in Feb, 200 in Mar, 21 in Apr, 200 in Oct, 217 in Nov and 80 in Dec. Radlett Aero GP, monthly maxima: 400 in Jan, 800 in Mar and 400 in early Apr. St Albans, 300 on Dec 20th. Tyttenhanger GP, seen regularly in both winter periods, 90 on Oct 15th.
- Midxx Brent Res, nine on Nov 3rd. Staines Res, three flyover sightings: one W on Aug 8th, one N on Oct 5th, and one S with Lapwing on Nov 15th. Vicarage Farm, 13 circled then flew W on Jan 1st, three on Nov 6th.
- Bucks Q. Mother Res, 50 flew NE on Feb 15th and two separate singles flew over on Sept 24th. Withybridge, 23 flew W on Feb 23rd.

Kent R. Darent, one on Feb 16th. Littlebrook, 120 on Apr 6th.  
 Surrey Island Barn Res, five flew S on Nov 9th. Limpsfield Chart, one on Aug 24th.  
 London Wetland Centre, three flew W on Jan 3rd and one S on Sept 27th.

**0486 Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*  
 Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, and scarce winter visitor.

The early part of the year produced a handful of records, mainly of singles at Rainham and West Thurrock Marshes. A good spring passage followed, perhaps involving 85 or more birds passing through from April 18th to June 3rd; it is difficult to be sure exactly how many individuals were involved, as it is uncertain how long some of them stayed at Rainham Marshes, or how many were seen at more than one site. In contrast, autumn passage was light, with at most ten birds between Aug 30th and Oct 24th. As last year, sightings were more regular during the second winter period than the first, with up to four birds at Thames-side sites in November-December.

Essex Rainham Marshes, one on Jan 1st, Feb 20th and Mar 15th, then passage birds on 15 dates between Apr 18th-May 27th (peaking at nine on May 8th & 18th), two on Aug 30th, one on Sept 29th, 1-2 on two dates in Oct, with wintering birds on 16 days from Nov 3rd-Dec 16th (and four birds on three dates). West Thurrock Marshes, seven on Jan 4th, one on Jan 13th and Mar 15th, and two on Nov 7th and Dec 8th.

Middx KGVl Res, one on May 18th (seen earlier at Staines). Staines Res, singles on Apr 27th, May 1st, 3rd, 6th, 9th & 16th, two on May 8th and four on 18th.

Bucks Horton GP, a bird in partial summer plumage on May 4th.

Kent Crossness, one on Oct 9th & 17th and Nov 7th. Greenhithe, two on May 26th and Oct 18th. R. Thames, Dartford, three on May 26th. Sevenoaks WR, one on Apr 19th-21st. Swanscombe Marsh, one on Dec 3rd.

Surrey Beddington SF, one on Apr 19th and June 3rd. London Wetland Centre, one on Apr 29th. QEII Res, one on May 18th & 26th. Richmond Park, one flew ENE at 10:25 on May 19th.

**0493 Northern Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*  
 Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant, widespread as a breeding species in appropriate habitat.

Only 87 breeding pairs/territories were reported this year (cf 145-152 in 2007) - the lowest breeding total for the past ten years. There can be little doubt that this mainly reflects a lack of reporting, eg no breeding records were received from Rainham Marshes, though some sites reported fewer pairs than last year. The highest breeding concentrations were: Beddington SF, 21 pairs (16-17 in 2007); London Wetland Centre, 11; Walton Res, nine and Rye Meads, seven (14 in 2007). Outside the breeding season the largest gatherings were, as usual, in the Essex and Herts sectors, but some good-sized flocks were also seen elsewhere.

The number of breeding pairs/territories reported (figs in brackets) are set out below, followed by some of the highest counts in each sector.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows (1) seen displaying. Dagenham Chase (1), bred; 290 on Jan 16th. Holyfield Hall Farm (c. 7) holding territory; 500 on Dec 20th and 1,500 on Dec 31st. Grange Waters, 400 on Jan 20th. Rainham Marshes, peaks of 3,000 in Jan; 2,100 in Feb; 1,103 in Nov and 2,607 in Dec.
- Herts Amwell GP (5) five pairs nested, three broods seen; 700 on Jan 12th, 400 on Oct 19th, Nov 15th and Dec 21st. Bricket Wood Common (2), probably bred. Chiswell Green (1), probably bred. Kings Langley (1-2), bred. Letchmore Heath (1), probably bred. Radlett Aero GP (1), bred; 400 on Jan 6th. Shenley (3-4), probably bred. Stocker's Farm (3). Tyttenhanger GP (1-2), bred; 420 on Feb 6th, 1,000 on Aug 20th and 500 on Dec 20th. Welham Green (1), bred. Woodoaks Farm, 400 on Jan 6th.
- Middx Kempton Park NR (1), two juv on July 7th. Littleton Lake GP (4), four broods on May 17th. Staines, gravel works south of A30 (1) a possible territorial pair on May 15th. Stanwell Moor (1), bred, 105 on Feb 7th. Brent Res, 16 on Nov 5th, 20 on Dec 27th. Broadwater Lake, 300 on Jan 26th. Grand Junction Res, 100 on Aug 8th. Hampton, 200 on Nov 28th. Staines, 170 on gravel workings on Dec 2nd. Staines Res, 84 on Feb 17th, 70 on Sept 15th. Stanwell, 60 over old landfill site on Feb 2nd.
- Bucks Woodlands Park Lakes, 400 on Jan 21st and Feb 21st.
- Kent Brasted (2), but no young seen. Crossness (1-2) displaying but no young seen; 379 on Feb 9th and 265 on Dec 7th. Dartford (1) probably bred; 400 on Dec 17th. Sevenoaks WR (1) bred; 75 in Jan, 520 on Dec 14th. Swanscombe (1-3), bred. R. Darent, Otford Rd, 250 on Feb 16th.
- Surrey Beddington (21); monthly peaks of 141 in Jan, 203 in Feb, 75 in Aug, 80 in Sept, 70 in Oct, 110 in Nov and 80 in Dec; max of 50 in other months. London Wetland Centre (11), up to 10 young seen; peaks of 89 in Feb, 113 in Aug and 93 in Dec. Walton Res (9); peaks of 465 in Jan, 200 in Feb and 229 in Dec. Holmethorpe SP, 400 on Jan 13th, 385 on Nov 21st.

**0496 Knot *Calidris canutus***

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers.

A flock of 17 was seen at Rainham in January, and two singles in December, but all other records fell broadly within the spring and autumn passage periods (May 8th-26th and July 28th-Oct 30th). Following last year's flock of 90 over Q. Mother Res, another good-sized flock of 30 birds was seen passing over the same site this autumn.

- Essex Rainham Marshes, 17 on Jan 28th, three on May 16th, four on 17th-18th, then singles on May 24th-26th, July 29th, Sept 8th & 12th and Oct 30th.
- Middx KGV1 Res, one on Dec 14th. Staines Res, two on Aug 7th, one on 17th, two on 23rd and a juv on 30th.
- Bucks Q. Mother Res, a summer-plumaged adult on July 28th, 33 juvenile or winter-plumaged birds flying W at 17:02 on Sept 7th.
- Kent Crossness, a juv on Aug 31st, singles on Sept 5th, 8th-9th & 12th. R. Thames, Dartford, one on May 26th and Dec 31st.
- Surrey Beddington SF, single on May 8th, then daily from Aug 23rd-Sept 7th, with four on Sept 2nd. London Wetland Centre, one on May 26th and Oct 27th.



- 0497 Sanderling** *Calidris alba*  
 Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, rare in winter.  
 Spring passage records could theoretically have involved c. 116 birds between Apr 16th and June 4th, and autumn passage c. 27 birds, mainly between July 12th and Sept 8th. These totals are based on the maximum counts from each site on any day, but assume no duplication of birds between different dates or sites. There were no winter records.
- Essex Rainham Marshes, singles on Apr 16th, 29th & 30th; three on May 4th, then 1-2 on seven dates in May with five on 24th & 25th, one on Aug 20th & four on 31st.
- Herts Tyttenhanger GP, one on May 16th.
- Middx KGVI Res, one on June 1st. Staines Res, one on Apr 27th and May 2nd-3rd, then 2-3 seen frequently up to May 26th, with ten on May 16th; singles on three dates in July, seven dates in Aug and on Sept 2nd.
- Bucks Horton GP, one on June 4th. Q. Mother Res, 1-2 seen on three dates in May, with four on 26th and eight on 27th, six on June 3rd; one on July 16th, Aug 4th-5th and Sept 8th, with two on Sept 3rd.
- Kent Crossness, one on May 17th & 24th and nine on 26th. Greenhithe, one on May 26th. Sevenoaks WR, eight on May 16th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, two on May 26th, one on 27th & 28th, and one on Oct 10th. London Wetland Centre, one on May 16th, two on 23rd & one on 27th. QEII Res, singles on Apr 27th, May 18th, 21st & 27th and Aug 16th, with two on May 16th, three on 25th-26th and two on Aug 4th.
- 0501 Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*  
 Status: passage migrant in variable, usually small, numbers, rare in winter.  
 A fairly typical year, with perhaps seven different individuals recorded during each passage period, though when birds are seen at a site on consecutive days, it is often difficult to know whether they are the same ones. Dates of all sightings are given, and refer to singles, unless stated.
- Essex Fairlop Waters, one on Sept 14th (BeA). Rainham Marshes, May 14th, 16th, two on 17th-18th, one on 24th & 28th, Sept 22nd-23rd & 28th-29th, Oct 29th and Nov 26th-27th (mo).
- Bucks Horton GP, a summer-plumaged bird on May 13th-14th (HeCDR).
- Surrey Beddington SF, June 11th (per ALJP). QEII Res, a juv on Sept 28th (HaDM).
- 0502 Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*  
 Status: rare passage migrant, predominately occurring during May.  
 Rainham Marshes hosted a few of these distinctive waders at a typical time of year.
- Essex Rainham Marshes, three from May 11th-14th, with two remaining on May 15th, then four on May 16th (mo).

- 0507 Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*  
 Status: rare passage migrant.  
 After a blank year in 2007, there was just one short-staying bird in 2008.  
 Essex Rainham Marshes, one from Sept 28th-30th (DeM *et al*).
- 0509 Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*  
 Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, mainly in autumn.  
 The run of poor years continued, with perhaps just two birds seen in 2008.  
 Essex Rainham Marshes, singles on Sept 8th, Nov 13th-14th & 20th-22nd but the  
 Nov records may all relate to just one individual (SmD, VaH *et al*).  
 Middx Staines Res, one, perhaps two, on May 17th (InRE).

- 0512 Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*  
 Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Flocks of up to 1,400 visited sites along the Thames in both winter periods, probably with considerable interchange as birds moved around between nearby sites. Away from the Thames, the usual sightings of small groups and individuals were noted at reservoirs and other wetland sites, mostly involving no more than six birds. Many of these records, as well as some of the smaller parties along the Thames, fell within the spring and autumn passage periods (roughly Feb 24th-June 4th and June 23rd-Oct 11th), but a few short-staying individuals remained during the winter.

A rough approximation of the numbers present in the London Area each month is given in the table below, which totals the maximum count from all sites each month. This is likely to over-estimate the wintering numbers on the Thames due to the movements between sites, while under-estimating those passing through inland sites, where different individuals may stop by on consecutive days; however, it gives some idea of the seasonal pattern.

Dunlin	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Thameside	2750	628	2098	14	22	5	13	20	14	45	1000	4243
Elsewhere	5	3	9	23	41	7	15	22	14	3	4	1
Total	2755	631	2107	37	63	12	28	42	28	48	1004	4244

Sector records are summarised below, giving the highest counts in each sector, with an emphasis on sites within Greater London.

- Essex Monthly maxima at the two main sites: Rainham Marshes, 20 in Jan, 80 in Feb, 300 in Mar, 800 in Nov and 1,013 in Dec; W. Thurrock Marshes, 1,400 in Jan, 48 in Feb, 800 in Mar, 1,000 in Dec. Barking Bay, ten on Aug 31st and Sept 1st. KGV Res, one on Dec 31st. Walthamstow Res, one on Jan 6th. Elsewhere 1-3 birds seen mainly during spring or autumn passage.
- Herts One, or occasionally two, birds recorded on c. 50 dates during spring and autumn passage, including Amwell GP and Tyttenhanger GP (spring and autumn), Cole Green Tip (spring) and Rye Meads (autumn).

- Middx Brent Res, 1-4 during spring and one on Oct 10th. East India Dock Basin, two flying N on Apr 30th. Kempton Park NR, one on July 8th. KGVI Res, 1-2 on seven dates between May 2nd-Nov 23rd. Q. Mary Res, one on Jan 12th. Staines Res, spring passage from Feb 26th-May 16th, with peak of 12 on May 4th; autumn passage from July 6th-Sept 23rd, peaks of six on July 16th and Sept 23rd, then singles on Oct 23rd and Nov 2nd.
- Bucks Horton GP, one on Apr 4th and May 16th, six on May 25th. Q. Mother Res, one on Mar 17th, two on May 17th and 1-5 on nine dates from July 9th-Sept 28th.
- Kent Crossness, monthly peaks of 1,100 on Jan 19th & 26th, 400 on Feb 24th, 650 on Mar 9th, 12 on Aug 30th, 40 on Oct 31st, 200 on Nov 7th & 22nd and 1,100 on Dec 22nd. Dartford Marshes, 30 on Mar 13th and 130 on Dec 17th. Greenhithe, 300 on Mar 2nd. R. Thames, QEII Bridge-Swanscombe, 230 on Jan 5th, 100 on Feb 10th and 18 on Mar 9th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, spring passage, 1-4 between Mar 4th and June 1st; autumn passage from July 10th-Sept 14th, peak of seven on Aug 14th. Island Barn Res, one on Nov 18th. London Wetland Centre, 1-3 on 15 dates from Mar 1st-May 30th, with eight on May 25th, then singles on five dates from Aug 9th-15th. Sutton, two flew N over the Royal Marsden Hospital on June 4th. Walton Res, 1-3 in Jan and Feb, then up to four during spring and singles during autumn passage.

**0517 Ruff *Philomachus pugnax***  
 Status: regular passage migrant, now rare winter visitor.

Rainham Marshes continues to be the premier site within our Area at which to encounter this species, with regular reports during both winter periods, and up to four or five birds on the same day during spring and autumn passage respectively. Elsewhere, there were just two records in spring and perhaps ten individuals in autumn, with one in December.

- Essex Rainham Marshes, singles on 11 dates from Jan 2nd-Mar 11th; 1-4 during spring passage from Apr 7th-May 8th; 1-2 seen regularly during autumn passage from July 27th, with three on Sept 30th, 4-5 on four dates in Oct, and up to three in Nov and Dec.
- Herts Tyttenhanger GP, a juv on Aug 20th.
- Middx Staines Res, two on Apr 26th & 30th; one flew S on Aug 7th; two on Sept 14th.
- Kent Crossness, one on Apr 11th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, singles on 17 dates during autumn passage. Holmethorpe SP, one on Dec 29th. London Wetland centre, a juv from Sept 4th-11th.

**0518 Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus***  
 Status: widespread but elusive winter visitor and passage migrant.

The numbers reported were similar to last year, and again likely to be an underestimate, due to this species' secretive nature. For comparison with last year, an indication of the relative abundance each month is shown in the table below, which is based on the total of monthly maxima from the

main sites. In the notes section, for localities with regular sightings, the maximum no. in each winter period is given in brackets (Jan-Mar: Oct-Dec); for other sites, individual sightings are listed. The last bird of the spring and the first of the autumn were seen at Holmethorpe SP, on Apr 27th and Sept 25th respectively.

Jack Snipe	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May/Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	17	18	17	5	0	1	7	16	16
Essex	Rainham Marshes (2:1). Walthamstow Marsh, one on Feb 26th. West Thurrock Marshes (3:3).								
Herts	Amwell GP (1:1). Frogmore GP, one on Feb 6th. Hatfield Aerodrome, one on Dec 13th. Rye Meads (4:2). Seventy Acres Lake, one on Jan 6th. Tyttenhanger GP, two on Nov 2nd, one on Nov 5th.								
Middx	Kempton Park NR, one on Dec 2nd. Staines Moor, one on Jan 9th. Stanwell Moor, one on Mar 7th and two on Nov 22nd.								
Bucks	Horton GP (3:2); two on Jan 2nd, the remainder of a group of five present at the end of 2007. Then seen regularly from Feb 12th-Apr 10th, returning on Oct 2nd-5th with 1-2 intermittently from Dec 3rd-31st.								
Kent	Crossness, one on Feb 10th and Dec 24th & 25th. Swanscombe Marsh, one on Jan 1st.								
Surrey	Beddington SF (2:1). Holmethorpe SP (3:7). London Wetland Centre (3:1). Richmond Park (1:1).								

### 0519 Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant, former scarce breeder.

The highest counts reported from the best sites suggest that wintering numbers were below those of 2007, with none above 100 this year. In the first winter period, numbers declined through March and April, followed by only four reports in May, June and the first half of July. No indication of attempted breeding was reported. Numbers picked up from August, with ten on August 9th at Rainham the first sign of a build-up. Peak counts at most of the top locations were higher in the second winter period.

Some of the highest counts in each sector and all May and June records are given below, along with all Inner London records.

Essex	Belhus Woods CP, 12 on Feb 26th. Ingrebourne Valley, 14 on Dec 30th. Rainham Marshes, 73 on Feb 25th, 91 on Nov 14th, singles on May 12th & 21st and June 15th. W. Thurrock Marshes, ten on Nov 7th.								
Herts	Amwell GP, 18 on Mar 14th, one remaining to May 8th, then 23 on Dec 21st. Croxley Moor, 13 on Feb 26th. Rye Meads, 63 on Jan 12th and Feb 9th, two remaining to May 7th, then 56 on Nov 16th. Tyttenhanger GP, 29 on Mar 29th and 27 on Dec 24th.								
Middx	Brent Res, monthly peaks: 33 on Jan 13th, 26 on Feb 24th, 16 on Mar 24th, 27 on Nov 27th and 43 on Dec 21st. Moorhall Lake GP, 12 on Feb 23rd. Stanwell Moor, 39 on Mar 23rd, 36 on Dec 2nd and 13 on Dec 29th.								
Bucks	Horton GP, 20 on Sept 23rd.								
Kent	Crossness, 12 on Oct 18th. R. Darent, Otford Rd, 23 on Feb 3rd. Sevenoaks WR, 64 on Feb 9th and 43 on Dec 18th. Swanscombe Marsh, 20 on Jan 1st.								

- Surrey Beddington SF, 12 on Jan 2nd and Mar 8th and 36 on Oct 1st. Holmethorpe SP, 70 on Jan 27th and 50 on Dec 14th. London Wetland Centre, 16 on Jan 3rd and 41 on Dec 28th. Walton Res, 15 on Feb 20th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, singles on Mar 4th & 19th.

**0529 Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

Status: localised breeding species, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Roding birds were reported from 12 sites, however breeding was not confirmed anywhere in the LNHS Area. A minimum of three roding birds was reported in Epping Forest, though the Forest was not surveyed in great detail this year, and over the year as a whole birds were reported from six parts of the forest, so there could have been more than three territories. Birds were seen at many more sites in winter than summer, particularly in Essex. Figures in brackets are nos. of roding birds.

- Essex Recorded at 19 sites. Epping Forest: Deershelter Plain (1+) Apr and June; Long Running (2) on Apr 26th; Sunshine Plain, two birds on May 3rd. Bedfords Park, four on Nov 19th. Great Warley, four on Feb 16th.
- Herts Reported from eight sites during the breeding season, three sites having up to three roding birds. Other sightings include: Cromerhyde Farm, two on Feb 2nd; Great Amwell, two on Jan 26th; Hilfield Park Res, two on Feb 2nd; Little Berkhamsted, three on Feb 2nd; Welham Green, two on Dec 25th; Wildhill, two on Dec 31st; Woodside, three on Dec 7th.
- Middx Poor's Field, Ruislip (1), the "first roding recorded for 15 years". Brent Res, one on Nov 29th. Staines Moor, one on Feb 16th. Stanwell Moor, two on Mar 1st, one on the 8th, two on Nov 22nd and one on Dec 22nd.
- Bucks Horton GP, one on Jan 17th.
- Kent Crossness, one on Dec 21st. Sevenoaks WR, one on Nov 19th.
- Surrey Prince's Coverts (6) on May 18th. London Wetland Centre, two on Dec 30th. Richmond Park, two on Feb 18th and Nov 19th, three on Nov 24th, four on Dec 10th & 22nd. Singles at several other sites outside the breeding season.
- In Lond Regent's Park, singles on Nov 11th and Dec 9th.

**0532 Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in variable, but increasing, numbers.

Wintering numbers along the Thames were high in both winter periods, with 410 at Rainham on Jan 6th and 500 on Dec 16th. Away from the Thames, records were confined to passage periods; spring passage (Mar 23rd-May 18th) was light and autumn passage (June 28th-Sept 9th) was slightly stronger. Monthly maxima at key sites along the Thames are shown in the table below, with records from other locations listed in the notes.

Black-tailed Godwit		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Dagenham Riverside	-	-	-	-	23	-	-
	Rainham Marshes NR	410	170	200	166	28	350	500
	W. Thurrock Marshes	46	1	150	-	-	-	-

Black-tailed Godwit contd		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Kent	Crossness	102	103	17	3	206	150	186
	Greenhithe	-	-	176	-	-	-	-
	Swanscombe Marsh	5	-	-	-	-	12	23

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, two on Aug 21st. Fairlop Waters, one on July 18th. Ingrebourne Valley, one on Aug 2nd. Sewardstone Marsh, 19 on Aug 15th.
- Herts Amwell GP, two on July 12th. Radlett Aero GP, one on July 29th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Aug 3rd.
- Middx Kempton Park NR, one on July 24th. Staines Res, seen on nine dates, maximum of 17 on Aug 15th.
- Bucks Q. Mother Res, six on July 31st, two on Aug 10th and one on Sept 6th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, reported on nine dates, maximum two on Aug 5th & 14th. London Wetland Centre, seen on 13 dates, maximum seven on May 18th.

**0534 Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limonica*  
 Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, scarce in winter.

Passage was poor in both spring and autumn. In spring, possibly only 13 birds were seen, the majority at Rainham between Apr 18th and May 27th. Autumn passage, from Aug 30th to Sept 15th, was even lighter, possibly involving as few as five birds. The only winter birds were singles at Staines Res on Nov 2nd and 22nd and Rainham on Dec 28th.

- Essex Rainham Marshes, one on Apr 18th, increasing to eight by Apr 30th and May 4th, the last two spring birds on May 27th; singles on several dates from Aug 30th-Sept 12th and Dec 28th. W. Thurrock, three on Sept 15th.
- Herts Amwell GP, one on May 17th. Stocker's Farm, one on May 9th.
- Middx Staines Res, singles on May 7th & 16th and Nov 2nd & 22nd.
- Kent Crossness, one on Aug 30th.
- Surrey QEII Res, one on May 2nd.

**0538 Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*  
 Status: regular passage migrant.

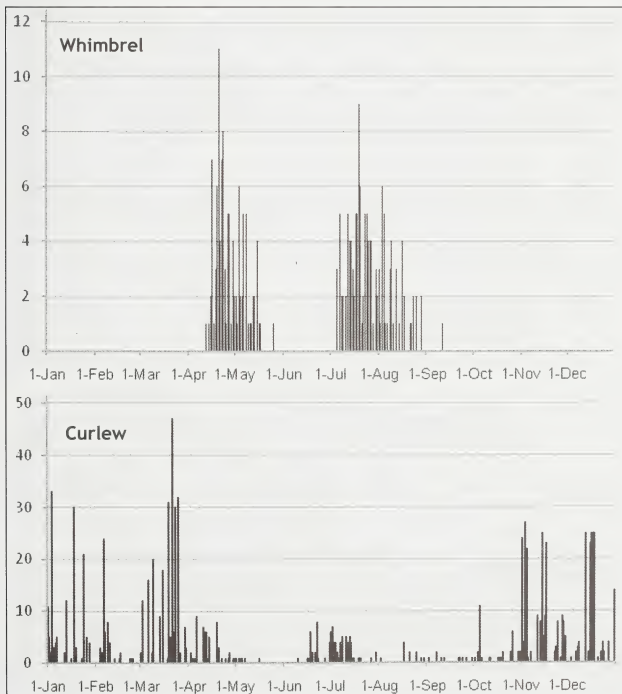
Seen mainly during spring and autumn passage, concentrated in April-May and July-Aug, as the graph opposite shows, but this year's numbers were generally relatively poor in both periods. There appeared to be at least 75 birds in spring between Apr 12th and May 25th, Surrey having the largest share, with the highest count 11 at Holmethorpe SP on Apr 20th. Autumn passage, between July 5th and Sept 11th, involved at least 26 birds, again mostly seen in small groups, with Essex having the largest share. In addition, 38 were seen flying towards the LNHS Area near Stondon Massey (which is just outside) on Aug 2nd. There were no winter records.

- Essex Barking Outfall, one on Apr 19th. Dagenham Chase, one on Apr 21st. Fairlop Waters, two on May 5th. Grays Beach, two on July 16th. Harold Hill, one on Aug 1st. Holyfield Lake, one on Apr 26th. Ingrebourne Valley, four on May 15th. KGV Res, one on Aug 23rd. Rainham Marshes, one on Apr 12th, increasing to eight by Apr 23rd, then tailing off until the last on May 13th. Walthamstow Res, two on Apr 18th, one on July 5th.



Herts Rye Meads, one on Aug 10th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Apr 14th.  
 Middx Brent Res, one on Apr 19th, two on 26th & 27th, one on 28th and one on Sept 7th. East India Dock Basin, one on Apr 20th. Staines Res, one on Apr 20th & 25th, five on Apr 26th, then one on May 1st-3rd, two on 4th and one on 5th & 25th; one on July 21st and Aug 16th, and two on Aug 17th.  
 Bucks Horton GP, four on Apr 23rd and one Sept 11th. Q. Mother Res, four on Apr 16th, one on 20th, five on 27th, singles on May 4th, 10th & 17th and Aug 5th.  
 Kent Crossness, two on Apr 20th, one on May 2nd and Aug 14th. Dartford Marshes, two on July 26th and one on Aug 6th.  
 Surrey Beddington SF, five on Apr 20th and four on 21st. Holmethorpe SP, 11 on Apr 20th. Lake Farm CP, one on Aug 28th. London Wetland Centre, two on Apr 18th, six on May 3rd and one on 11th. QEII Res, one from Apr 22nd-25th, May 16th, July 20th and Aug 2nd. Richmond Park, one on Apr 16th. Walton Res, one from Apr 22nd-25th, one on May 13th.

**Whimbrel and Curlew, seasonal comparison of all records, LNHS Area**  
 Each bar represents the highest count at one site on one day



**0541 Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

Status: winter visitor and passage migrant.

Thames-side counts early in the year were slightly up on 2007, with 33 at West Thurrock in January and 47 at Rainham Marshes in March. Numbers declined sharply in April and built up again in October. The highest late-year count was 27 at Rainham in November. Away from the river, the largest groups were eight over Holyfield Hall Farm on Apr 19th, six over Walthamstow Res on June 18th and five over Holmethorpe SP on June 22nd. Monthly maxima for some of the key Lower Thames sites are shown in the following table and other counts are summarised in the notes below.

Curlew	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rainham	30	24	47	9	1	6	7	2	1	11	27	25
W. Thurrock	33	1	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Crossness	5	3	-	2	-	8	1	-	-	2	3	3

Essex Cornmill Meadows, one flew NW on June 27th. Holyfield Hall Farm, eight flew N on Apr 19th. Netherhouse Farm, one on Mar 13th. Sewardstone Marsh, one on Aug 30th. Walthamstow Res, six flew S on June 18th.

Herts Cole Green Tip, three on Apr 20th. Hilfield Park Res, one on July 5th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Feb 24th; one flew through on Apr 3rd.

Middx Staines Res, four flew W (with two Whimbrel) on Aug 17th.

Bucks Q. Mother Res, one on Apr 29th. Wraysbury GP, one on Aug 30th.

Kent Greenhithe, 12 on Mar 2nd. QEII Bridge, four on Feb 10th. Swanscombe Marsh, 20 on Mar 9th.

Surrey Beddington SF, singles on July 5th, 6th & 15th; two on Aug 21st. Holmethorpe SP, two on Apr 20th, one on May 3rd & 7th and five on June 22nd. Island Barn Res, two on Mar 8th. London Wetland Centre, one on Mar 13th & 19th, two on Apr 27th, one on May 4th-5th and July 5th. QEII Res, singles on Mar 8th, Apr 4th and July 20th.

**0545 Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

Status: scarce passage migrant.

Yet another poor year, with probably just six or seven individuals (cf. eight or nine in 2007). All except one were at Rainham Marshes.

Essex Hall Marsh, one on Aug 17th (ShM). Rainham Marshes: in spring, singles on Mar 28th & 30th, Apr 8th, 12th, 18th, 20th, 22nd & 24th, with two on Apr 14th-16th (mo), but note these records may refer to just two or three individuals; in autumn, singles on July 1st, Aug 10th-13th and Aug 29th, probably referring to three birds (RSPB; VaH; SMD; TWA).

**0546 Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant, localised breeder.

At least 17 breeding pairs were found, producing a minimum of ten chicks, with eight young fledged. This compares with 26 breeding pairs in 2007 and 38 pairs (but few young fledged) in 2006. However, no breeding figures were received from Rainham, where one pair bred in 2007.

The highest monthly counts from sites along the Lower Thames are as listed in the table below. Counts (of five or more birds) from other sites and breeding records (nos. of pairs/territories in brackets) are given in the notes.

Redshank		Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Barking Bay/Creekmouth	25	19	41	-	16	108
	Rainham Marshes NR	76	63	100	340	245	200
	West Thurrock Marshes	200	214	211	-	-	500
	Dagenham, Fords	-	-	-	93	-	-
	Crossness	310	106	96	225	160	165
Kent	Dartford Marshes	-	-	88	-	-	62

- Essex Belhus Woods CP, six on Mar 30th. Hall Marsh, five on Mar 16th.
- Herts Amwell GP (3), at least three fledged; eight on June 14th. Rye Meads (1), but no young survived. Tyttenhanger GP, seven on Apr 15th
- Middx Staines Res, pair seen displaying in spring and a juv seen in late July (probably from the Stanwell brood); 12 on Mar 22nd; 32 flew over on Sept 10th. Stanwell Moor (1), one hatched. East India Dock Basin, 14 on Jan 6th and 37 on Nov 27th.
- Bucks Horton GP (1).
- Kent Crayford Marshes, a pair in June. Dartford Marshes "probably bred". Littlebrook, 12 on June 15th. QEII Bridge, 40 on Feb 10th.
- Surrey London Wetland Centre (6), five fledged; 15 on May 23rd. Island Barn Res, 11 on Jan 22nd. QEII Res, six on Apr 27th. R. Thames, Barnes-Putney, six on Sept 14th. Walton Res, 14 on Mar 18th, 19 on Apr 8th, 12 on May 31st.

## 0548 Greenshank

## *Tringa nebularia*

Status: common passage migrant, rare in winter.

Spring passage started on Apr 6th, with two birds at William Girling Res, increased to a peak in early May, including 11 birds at Rainham Marshes on May 7th (one less than the spring 2007 peak), then continued until June 1st. Autumn passage commenced on June 24th, with single birds at Dartford Marshes and Staines Res, and continued until Sept 26th, with maximum counts of 12 at Rainham Marshes on five dates between July 30th and Sept 9th (cf autumn peak of ten birds in 2007, also at Rainham). There were no records of overwintering birds.

Monthly maxima at Rainham are given in the table below, followed by a summary of sightings in each sector.

Greenshank		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Essex	Rainham Marshes NR	7	11	2	12	12	12	-

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, two on Aug 21st and four on 25th. KGV Res, seen on three dates, with three on Apr 19th. Rainham Marshes, peaks of 11 on May 7th, 12 on July 30th, Aug 2nd-4th and Sept 7th. Walthamstow Res, two on June 1st. Wm Girling Res, two on Apr 6th, Sept 8th & 14th. Singles at Fairlop Waters, Grays Beach, Hall Marsh and Newham (Armada Way)!
- Herts Tyttenhanger GP, three on Aug 19th, two on May 13th & 16th and Aug 15th, with singles on several other dates. Singles reported on three or more dates at Amwell GP, Hilfield Park Res, Rye Meads and Seventy Acres Lake.

- Middx KGVI Res, two on Sept 17th. Staines Moor, eight on May 4th. Staines Res, two on Aug 16th-17th. Elsewhere, singles at Kempton Park NR, Staines Moor and Vicarage Farm (Enfield).
- Bucks Horton GP, singles on two dates.
- Kent Crossness, two on Aug 14th and Sept 12th, singles on eight other dates. Dartford Marshes, two on Aug 6th, singles on two other dates. R. Darent, two on Aug 6th. Singles also at Sevenoaks WR and R. Thames, Dartford.
- Surrey Beddington SF, max of four on Aug 16th. Holmethorpe SP, two on May 13th. London Wetland Centre, three on May 5th. QEII Res, max of two on May 30th. Singles also seen at Island Barn Res and Walton Res.

## 0553 Green Sandpiper

*Tringa ochropus*

Status: widespread winter visitor and passage migrant (mainly in autumn).

As usual, sightings were most frequent in autumn, with almost twice the number of records in July-Sept than any other three month period. As last year, the highest count of the year came from Beddington SF, with a peak of 32 on July 28th (the same number but a different date from last year). Wm Girling Res and Rye Meads also logged good double-digit maxima. As in 2006 and 2007 there were very few records in May.

The table below lists maximum monthly counts at the most regular sites, with counts of two or more birds from other sites in the notes.

Green Sandpiper	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex												
Cornmill Mdws	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-
Wm Girling Res	1	-	4	9	-	-	18	11	13	9	1	2
Ingrebourne Val	1	1	1	1	1	-	4	6	-	-	-	-
Rainham Marshes	2	1	2	2	-	-	7	8	5	2	2	2
Walthamstow Res	1	1	2	3	-	1	-	-	4	6	8	1
Herts												
Amwell GP	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	1	-
Beech Farm GP	-	-	1	3	-	1	-	1	2	1	2	1
Coopers Green GP	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Maple Lodge NR	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
Rye Meads RSPB	5	5	4	2	-	4	14	12	10	16	9	6
Tyttenhanger GP	2	2	2	4	-	2	4	6	8	2	2	1
Middx												
Brent Res	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	3	4	1	1	-
Kent												
Crossness LNR	-	2	1	2	1	-	4	7	5	2	-	-
Sevenoaks WR	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	2	2	-	1	-
Surrey												
Beddington SF	9	7	6	7	1	10	32	31	11	8	7	4
Island Barn Res	4	6	8	6	-	-	2	6	6	4	6	4
London Wetld Ctr	-	-	-	2	2	-	4	5	2	1	-	-
Walton Res	1	2	3	2	1	-	4	2	1	4	6	4

Essex	Hall Marsh, four on Aug 29th and 31st. KGV Res, two on Apr 3rd.
Herts	Bury Lake, two on July 26th. Panshanger Park, two on Sept 14th. Radlett Aero GP, three on Sept 17th.
Middx	Brent Res, three on Aug 9th, four on Sept 20th. Kempton Park NR, three on July 24th. KGV Res, two on several dates. Park Farm, Enfield, two on Aug 17th. Staines Res, two on several dates.
Bucks	Horton GP, three on three dates.
Kent	Dartford Marshes, three on Apr 17th. Greenhithe/Swanscombe, three on Aug 24th.
Surrey	Holmethorpe SP, max of seven on Aug 20th. Walton Res (Chelsea/Lambeth Res), six on July 25th.

**0554 Wood Sandpiper***Tringa glareola*

Status: uncommon passage migrant.

There were about 5-6 spring records this year (depending on how many birds were seen at more than one site) compared to four (involving five birds) in 2007. Spring passage was concentrated mainly from Apr 27th-May 16th, with a later arrival on May 27th. A total of c.12 birds was seen in autumn, the same number as in 2007, and passage was mainly between Aug 2nd-29th with a single sighting each on June 22nd and July 9th. Over half the records were from Beddington SF (where all sightings were singles) and Rainham Marshes (which had up to three birds in May).

Essex	Fisher's Green Goosefield, one on Aug 2nd (WiA). Hall Marsh, three on Aug 13th (BaT). Rainham Marshes, singles on May 7th & 13th, with three on 14th, and one again on 15th-16th; singles, presumably on the return passage, on June 22nd, July 9th and Aug 4th, with the last two on Aug 9th (MeP <i>et al</i> ; VaH <i>et al</i> ; ShS; Wol; HaP; RSPB; VaH; TwA; RSPB).
Middx	Brent Res, one on May 14th-16th (BeR).
Kent	Crossness, one on May 5-6th (Mil).
Surrey	Beddington SF, singles on Apr 27th-28th, May 27th, Aug 2nd-4th, 7th & 18th-29th, the last a notable long-staying individual (ALJP).

**0556 Common Sandpiper***Actitis hypoleucos*

Status: common passage migrant and localised winter visitor.

Most often seen during spring and autumn passage, though a few wintering birds were reported from a total of 11 sites. These were all along the Thames, or close to major reservoirs, and all were singles, apart from two at KGV Res on Jan 12th and East India Dock Basin on Nov 24th, and three at Walthamstow Res on Nov 6th. Spring passage was better than 2007 with double-figure counts at Hilfield Park Res on May 4th and QEII Res on May 8th. Autumn passage was similar to 2007 with peak counts of 26 at KGV Res on Aug 29th (29 last year) and 25 at Staines Res on July 31st.

Monthly maxima at the most productive sites during the two migration periods are listed in the table below, followed by a summary of Inner London records.

Common Sandpiper		Apr	May	Jul	Aug	Sep
Essex	KGV Res	5	1	21	26	6
	Rainham Marshes	4	5	25	15	4
	Walthamstow Res	4	1	1	20	1
	Wm Girling Res	3	-	4	2	2
Herts	Hilfield Park Res	3	19	6	4	1
	Tyttenhanger GP	2	3	2	5	4
Middx	Brent Res	2	10	5	8	5
	East India Dock Basin	-	2	-	1	2
	KGVI Res	1	3	2	10	1
	Queen Mary Res	-	2	-	13	-
Bucks	Staines Res	3	5	25	22	12
	Queen Mother Res	2	7	10+	12	8
Kent	Crossness	2	1	3	8	7
Surrey	Beddington SF	2	8	12	14	6
	Island Barn Res	2	2	5	4	1
	London Wetland Centre	2	4	3	3	-
	QEII Res	3	16	3	6	-
	Walton Res	4	4	7	4	3

In Lond London Bridge, one on July 26th. Regent's Park, one seen on four dates in May and 1-2 on six dates between July 26th and Aug 21st.

0561 **Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*  
 Status: passage migrant and localised winter visitor.

The first winter period produced just two records along the Lower Thames: 12 at Rainham Marshes on Jan 12th and one at QEII Bridge on Feb 10th. Spring passage began on Apr 19th, and lasted to May 26th, with maxima of seven at Rainham Marshes and 13 at Staines Res on May 15th (both up on 2007). Autumn passage was also good, starting with two at Staines Res on July 21st, peaking at seven on Aug 13th, with the last two also at Staines on Sept 13th. There were no records in the second winter period.

- Essex KGV Res, one on Apr 19th. QEII Bridge, one on Feb 10th. Rainham Marshes, 12 on Jan 12th, one on Apr 19th and 3-7 from May 8th-18th. Walthamstow Res, one on May 22nd.
- Herts Amwell GP, one on May 15th-16th. Hilfield Park Res, six on Aug 24th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on July 31st and Aug 3rd and two on Aug 30th.
- Middx Staines Res, singles on May 1st & 10th, 13 on May 15th-16th, three on 17th and one on 25th-26th; two on July 21st, one from 25th-29th, two on Aug 3rd, 5th & 10th, five on 11th, seven on 13th, one on Sept 3rd and two from Sept 7th-13th.
- Bucks Horton GP, one on May 25th.
- Kent Crossness, one on Aug 2nd. QEII Bridge, one on Feb 10th (see Essex record).
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, two on May 21st, and Aug 5th. QEII Res, three on May 8th, one on May 26th and Aug 8th. Walton Res (Chelsea/Lambeth), one on Aug 14th.



- 0565 Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicaria*  
 Status: rare visitor, normally in late autumn and winter.
- The only four records were all singles. Two were part of an early-September influx that produced c. 20 inland sightings in southern England.
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, a 1st-winter bird from Nov 4th-6th (CrR).  
 Middx Q. Mary Res, one, probably a juv, on Sept 4th (QuA *et al*).  
 Bucks Q. Mother Res, juv moulting into 1st-winter on Sept 2nd - the first inland sighting of the autumn influx (HeCDR).  
 Surrey Hampton Court Park, Rick's Pond, an adult from Nov 13th-15th (NeS).

### Skuas

Three Skua species were represented this year, compared to last year's four species. However, the number of Arctic Skua dates are noticeably greater, with most records coming from Rainham, possibly relating to a regular individual or several individual birds.

- 0567 Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*  
 Status: regular but scarce autumn migrant; rare in other seasons.
- A very good year for Arctic Skua in the London region, with all bar two records coming from the R. Thames. The first bird was seen in late August, with most birds being recorded during November.
- Essex Rainham Marshes, one on Oct 10th, one intermittently from Nov 4th-23rd, with two on Nov 6th and two, plus possibly a third bird, on Nov 7th (mo).  
 Middx Brent Res, one flew S on Sept 7th (FiS). Stroud Green, dark morph presumed juv on Aug 22nd, seen from the top of a W3 bus (!) at 18:40 heading SE (WaRJ).  
 Kent Northfleet, three flew up river on Aug 23rd (D-LDG). Crossness, two on Nov 11th (Mil).

- 0568 Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus*  
 Status: rare autumn migrant.
- A single record representing the 17th record for the study area.
- Bucks Q. Mother Res, dark-morph juvenile flew in from the east, fed and rested before heading off west on Sept 24th (HeCDR).

- 0568.1 Skua sp.** *Stercorarius sp*  
 Herts Amwell GP, small skua sp, quite likely Long-tailed on Sept 7th (HaA).

- 0569 Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*  
 Status: regular but scarce migrant.
- 2008 produced just a single confirmed record, and only for a brief afternoon in September.
- Middx Staines Res, adult on S basin from 13:40-15:50 on Sept 9th (InRE, PuKL).

0575 **Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*

Status: regular winter visitor and passage migrant.

The table below gives the minimum total number of individuals per month at sites where birds were found in at least three months of the year. For birds seen away from these sites, the table includes a combined total for each county under "Other Sites" (the no. of these is shown in brackets).

The data show a similar pattern to the last two years, with the main peaks between January and March in the first winter period, then November and December towards the end of the year. However, overall numbers are down in most months compared to 2006 and 2007. The now regular wintering bird returned to Valentines Park, Ilford for its ninth year (HoP) and a bird appeared in December at Burgess Park, Southwark (BoRH).

In Lond Burgess Park, one from Dec 9th. Kensington Gdns, a German-ringed bird, on Jan 1st, 2nd & 4th (McDT). Regent's Park, one on Mar 14th (DuAR). R Thames, Greenland Pier, a juv on July 23rd (BoRH).

<b>Mediterranean Gull</b>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Bucks</b>												
Q. Mother Res	2	3	2	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
Other Sites (3)	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
<b>Essex</b>												
Valentines Park	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Rainham Marshes	1	4	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	1
Walthamstow Res	1	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Sites (11)	4	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	2
<b>Herts</b>												
Amwell GP	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Hilfield Park Res	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	4	-
Other Sites (3)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1
<b>Kent</b>												
Crossness	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	1	-	1	1
Other Sites (7)	-	1	3	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	3
<b>Middx</b>												
Staines Res	-	-	-	3	1	2	1	1	1	-	-	-
Brent Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
Other Sites (7)	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2
<b>Surrey</b>												
Beddington SF	1	4	2	1	-	-	2	-	-	1	4	2
Holmethorpe SP	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
QEII Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Walton Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	1
Other Sites (3)	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
<b>In Lond</b>												
Four Sites	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>21</b>
<i>2007 Totals</i>	26	35	17	9	5	3	10	13	9	6	12	19
<i>2006 Totals</i>	18	25	14	2	4	5	10	3	8	7	9	24

**0578 Little Gull *Larus minutus***

Status: regular passage migrant, occasional in summer and winter.

Two January records began the year, with three birds at Rainham on Jan 3rd and a singleton at Amwell GP on Jan 28th. However, there were no further records until Feb 16th, when a singleton was again seen at Amwell, our only record during February. March saw singles on eight dates between 15th and 30th across five sites: Rainham Marshes, Staines Res, Beddington, Island Barn Res and London Wetland Centre.

April saw numbers pick up, with birds recorded on 22 dates at 14 sites, with Staines Res again having the largest share (19 dates). Counts of ten or more were: KGV Res, 25 on Apr 22nd and 12 on 23rd; Staines Res, 15 on 21st, 22 on the 22nd and 12 on the 23rd and Wm Girling Res, 20 on 20th.

During May, birds were recorded on 25 dates from 12 sites, with Staines, once again, having the vast majority (23 dates). The highest count was of five birds at Staines on the 6th. Records tailed off during the summer, with sightings on ten dates during June, July and August, and maximum counts of four on four dates.

September saw birds being recorded on 15 dates, across six sites, with Staines again having the most records, peaking at five on Sept 18th. The only two records in October were both singletons, at Staines on the 7th and QEII Res on 29th. November had three records, Leavesden Green, Watford on Nov 1st, Q. Mother Res on Nov 2nd, and Staines Res on the 4th. There was only one December record, a singleton at Q. Mother Res on the 26th. Although the pattern of movement was similar to last year, numbers throughout the year appear to be down somewhat on 2007.

**0582 Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus***

Status: very common winter visitor and passage migrant, now breeding regularly in at least one site.

The breeding colony at Staines Res held 102 pairs (118 last year) with 63 pairs nesting on the new large raft, along with 23 and 16 pairs nesting on the two old rafts; at least 72 young were seen, including 66+ on the new raft and at least six on the old rafts. A pair also nested at Rye Meads, raising one chick - the first breeding in Herts since 1964. An observer noted what appeared to be a pair on an island at Seventy Acres Lake in early June and a pair was seen mating at the London Wetlands Centre on Apr 26th.

The notes below summarise larger counts outside the breeding season, listing peak counts of 1,000 or more birds.

Essex	Rainham Marshes, 6,000 on Feb 13th, 7,000 on Feb 14th, 5,000 on Nov 13th and 4,000 on Dec 24th.
Herts	Hilfield Park Res, 8,000 on Mar 9th, 2,000 on Mar 24th, 1,500 on Aug 31st and 5,000 on Dec 15th. Rye Meads, 2,000 on Aug 1st.
Middx	Brent Res, 1,077 on Nov 16th. Staines Res, 2,000 on Mar 24th.
Kent	Crossness, 2,000 on Aug 12th and 1,500 on Sept 15th. Dartford Marshes, 7,500 on July 26th. Sevenoaks WR, 1,500 on Nov 11th.

Surrey Beddington SF, monthly peaks of 8,735 in Jan, 6,764 in Feb, 4,048 in Mar, 3,750 in Oct, 5,430 in Nov and 6,768 in Dec. Epsom, 1,000 on Oct 30th and Nov 6th and 16th. Holmethorpe SP, 1,000 on Jan 6th and Dec 21st. Island Barn Res, 1,420 on Mar 18th. Morden Park, 1,000 on Dec 7th. QEII Res, 2,000 on Feb 16th. R. Thames, Putney-Barnes, 1,200 on Jan 13th, 2,236 on Feb 10th, 1,500 on Mar 9th and 1,480 on Dec 14th.

**0589 Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis*  
Status: rare visitor.

Only one record this year, a single sighting of the regular Isle of Dogs bird.

Middx Isle of Dogs, usual returning adult, reported only on Feb 16th (HuS).

**0590 Common Gull** *Larus canus*  
Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant.

Most often seen from November to March, with the highest counts recorded in March, though far less numerous than the Black-headed Gull. The notes list some of the highest counts for sites with 100 or more birds.

Essex Parsloes Park, 100 on Jan 19th. Wanstead Flats, 200 on Jan 16th.

Herts Great Amwell, 280 on Jan 26th. Hilfield Park Res, c.1,000 on Mar 24th. Rye Meads, 200 on Feb 16th. Tyttenhanger GP, 104 on Dec 23rd.

Middx Brent Res, 416 on Feb 24th and 406 on Nov 16th. Durrants Park, Ponders End, 148 on Nov 28th. Lake Farm CP, 198 on Dec 28th.

Kent Sevenoaks WR, 170 on Jan 23rd and Mar 8th.

Surrey Beddington SF, 150 on Dec 1st. Holmethorpe SP, 238 on Jan 19th. Richmond Park, 110 on Mar 23rd. Riddlesdown, 200+ on Nov 9th. Walton Res, 378 on Dec 7th.

**0591 Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*  
Status: common, most regular in autumn and winter; breeding in small but increasing numbers.

Breeding in the LNHS Area appears to be increasing, though unfortunately it is also greatly under-recorded, especially within the built-up area. The notes below list all records of proved or possible breeding, followed by some of the larger counts.

Essex Highams Park Industrial Estate, about 40 pairs bred. Orsett, Grey Goose Farm, c.200 on Sept 23rd. Rainham Marshes, c.450 on Feb 6th and 135 on Aug 16th.

Herts Borehamwood, juvs seen at Tescos on July 21st. Watford, up to five pairs probably bred. Hilfield Park Res, 77 ad + 25 juv on July 28th; 156 on Mar 19th and 386 on Sept 10th. Amwell GP, 210 on Mar 23rd, c.1,300 on Oct 20th. Rye Meads, c.240 on Sept 20th.

Middx Alexandra Park, usual pair bred nearby. Brent Res, juv seen on June 1st.  
Kent Dartford Marshes, 150 on Mar 15th and c.100 on June 15th.

Surrey London Wetland Centre, juv seen on many dates, incl 18 on May 28th. Beddington SF, monthly maxima: 183 in Jan, 413 in Feb, 162 in Mar, 252 in Aug, 104 in Sept, 166 in Nov and 162 in Dec. Island Barn Res, 173 on Jan 22nd, and 337 on Dec 19th.

### 2007, Amendment:

Herts Lesser Black-backed Gulls reported over Cassiobury Park on July 6th probably nested nearby in Watford rather than the park.

### 0592.1 Caspian Gull

*Larus cachinnans*

Status: rare visitor.

This species, formerly a race of Herring Gull, has now been given full specific status by the BOU. Previously all records were published regardless of whether descriptions were provided or not. As it has now become apparent that some (many?) of these records were not actually Caspian Gulls, the Records Committee will now be reviewing all published records and all future records. This is so we can establish this species' true status in our area and monitor it in future years. If you believe you have genuine records of Caspian Gull please submit a full description, preferably with photographs, to Richard Bonser. We would also appreciate it if observers could submit descriptions of all previous Caspian Gulls. The *LBR* for 2006 featured a detailed paper on the identification of Caspian Gulls.

Essex Rainham, recorded on at least 30 dates throughout the year (mo).  
 Middx KGVI Res, sub-adult on Aug 15th (InRE). Q. Mary Res, adult on Sept 14th (InRE). Staines Res, sub-adult on Sept 12th (InRE).  
 Bucks Colnbrook, Polish-ringed 1st-winter bird on Jan 1st, near-adult on Sept 8th and adult on Dec 19th. Horton Fields, near-adult on Sept 9th. Q. Mother Res, 1-2 birds seen (at least six individuals involved) on ten dates between Jan 1st-May 20th; a near-adult on Sept 8th-9th; then 1-2 seen on seven dates (involving three individuals) from Nov 25th-Dec 28th (HeCDR).  
 Kent Dartford Marshes, adult on Nov 7th (WiC); 3rd-winter on Nov 22nd (WrB).  
 Surrey Beddington SF, 1-2 birds recorded on at least 24 dates between Jan 30th and Dec 30th, at least four individuals involved (ALJP). London Wetland Centre, up to seven recorded on at least 46 dates during the year (mo).

### 0592 Herring Gull

*Larus argentatus*

Status: common, most regular in winter; breeds in small numbers.

About 15-20 pairs were reported as nesting this year, although it is clear that, once again, breeding was seriously under-recorded and more records, especially from central London, would be welcome. All confirmed and probable breeding records are listed below, together with records of juveniles which may have been reared nearby. A surprising nest site was a barge near Tower Bridge. Some of the larger counts are also given.

Essex Highams Park Industrial Estate, c.10 pairs bred. Rainham Marshes, c.800 on Dec 12th.

- Herts Watford, three pairs possibly bred. Amwell GP, 370 on Jan 27th, 600 on Dec 28th.  
 Middx Staines Res, 1st juv of the summer on July 19th; 350 on May 15th. Lake Farm CP, 204 on Nov 8th.  
 Bucks Q. Mother Res, two juv on July 21st; 500 on May 12th.  
 Kent Dartford, 500 on June 15th. Sevenoaks, Greatness Pits, 1,700 on Nov 17th. R. Darent, Otford Road, 400 on Nov 9th.  
 Surrey London Wetland Centre, juv seen on several dates, incl 19 on May 12th; 326 on Mar 9th and c.200 on Nov 6th. Beddington SF, monthly max: 3,219 in Jan, 3,304 in Feb, 1,405 in Mar, 1,651 in July, 1,299 in Aug, 1,989 in Sept, 1,260 in Oct, 4,052 in Nov and 3,818 in Dec. Island Barn Res, 1,460 on Jan 18th and 3,140 on Oct 31st.  
 In Lond Regent's Park, two pairs bred, but failed. Tower Bridge, pair on barge with downy chicks.

**0592.02 Yellow-legged Gull***Larus michahellis*

Status: regular late summer and autumn visitor, widely reported in smaller numbers at other times of year.

After last year's huge increase in numbers, things have settled down somewhat this year, with most areas having slightly reduced numbers (down by about 8% across the year). A notable monthly high was the 101 recorded at KGVI Res on Aug 15th. The table below shows monthly maxima for all sites where five or more birds were recorded, with Inner London records set out in the notes.

Yellow-legged Gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex: Rainham Marshes	3	7	1	1	-	3	26	24	16	6	26	24
W. Thurrock Marshes	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	7	-
Middx: E India Dock Basin	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	5	1	2	2
KGVI Res	-	-	-	2	1	1	50	101	34	29	-	1
Q. Mary Res	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	2	1	-
Staines Res	1	2	-	2	2	1	6	-	-	-	1	2
Bucks: Colnbrook Tip	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	40	-	1	-
Horton Fields	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	22	-	-
Q. Mother Res	3	2	2	1	5	2	50	2	40	-	2	2
Kent: Crossness	4	1	-	4	-	4	3	7	3	1	1	1
Dartford Marshes	1	2	9	-	-	-	19	-	15	11	3	-
Greenhithe/ Swanscombe	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	11	11	8	-	-
R. Thames, Dartford	-	4	1	-	-	-	8	5	-	13	26	22
Surrey: Beddington SF	2	4	3	1	2	5	2	2	1	6	6	6
Island Barn Res	7	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	9
London Wetland Ctr	7	2	5	2	2	-	1	1	9	2	5	4
QEII Res	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>2008 Totals</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>2007 Totals</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>68</b>

- In Lond Hyde Park, one on Jan 1st & 5th. Regent's Park, singles on four dates from Jan-June. Tower Bridge, one on July 15th & 23rd.



- 0598 Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucooides*  
 Status: scarce winter visitor, more regular in cold weather.  
 A reasonable year, comparable to 2007, with regular individuals visiting Rainham and Beddington, so raising the number of bird days for the area.
- Essex Rainham Marshes, 1st-winter bird seen regularly from Jan 3rd-Mar 29th.  
 Middx Stoke Newington Res, 2nd-winter bird on Dec 15th (PeMJ).  
 Bucks Colnbrook, adult on Jan 29th. Q. Mother Res, an adult recorded in roost on Jan 1st, Feb 14th & 23rd and Mar 3rd. Withybridge, an adult on Feb 14th, later seen at Q. Mother Res (all HeCDR).
- Surrey Beddington SF, 1st-winter bird on Feb 15th (ALJP); 1st-winter bird recorded on ten dates between Dec 16th & 31st (ALJP, MiK, SpMJ). Holmethorpe SP, 1st-winter bird on Dec 27th (BarR). Island Barn Res, 1st-winter bird on Dec 17th & 20th (HaDM; SpSJ). QEII Res, adult in roost on Feb 15th (MoN). (The Island Barn and QEII birds came from Beddington).
- 0599 Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*  
 Status: scarce winter visitor, more regular in cold weather.  
 As with Iceland Gull, a reasonable year, with a couple of regular individuals increasing the bird days for the LNHS area.
- Essex Rainham Marshes, a 2nd-year bird on Dec 6th (EkGR) and again from Dec 20th-24th (StrP *et al*).  
 Middx Broadwater Lake, 1st-winter bird on Jan 5th (MoAV).  
 Bucks Colnbrook, 1st-winter bird on Jan 12th and different 1st-winter bird on Feb 25th (HeCDR). Q. Mother Res, three different 1st-winter birds recorded on seven dates between Jan 1st and Feb 25th (HeCDR, MoKE, WaMF). Withybridge, 1st-winter bird on Feb 14th (HeCDR).
- Surrey Beddington SF, 1st-winter bird on Jan 2nd, then a different individual on four dates from Jan 4th-14th (ALJP). Island Barn Res, 1st-winter in roost on Jan 9th (HaDM). QEII Res, 1st-winter bird in roost on Jan 4th (HaDM).
- 0600 Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*  
 Status: fairly common winter visitor in small numbers, less common at other seasons, but first breeding reported in 2008.



London's first breeding record was confirmed this year, when an adult feeding a chick was found on a well-vegetated barge near Wandsworth Park (see photograph). More generally, compared to last year, fewer sites recorded really large numbers (50+ birds). Some of the highest counts and all Inner London records are given below.

Essex	Rainham Marshes, 185 on Feb 6th and 95 on Dec 11th.
Herts	Amwell GP, 75 on Feb 3rd, 115 on Nov 30th and 245 on Dec 28th.
Bucks	Q. Mother Res, 350 on Jan 1st and 187 on Dec 27th.
Kent	R. Darent (Otford Rd), 60 on Feb 3rd. Sevenoaks WR, 55 on Jan 9th.
Surrey	R. Thames, near Wandsworth Park (1); a pair nested on a barge, at least one chick. Walton Res, 70 on Jan 12th and 53 on Dec 6th.
In Lond	Regent's Park, single on Apr 13th and three on May 21st.

**0602 Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*  
 Status: regular, but scarce, passage migrant and winter visitor.

About 54 birds were recorded this year compared to last year's 119 and 2006's meagre 15 birds.

Essex	Rainham Marshes, two on Jan 3rd, singles on Jan 5th, July 6th and Aug 16th, two on Aug 25th, one on Sept 24th, three (juv) on Nov 1st and one on Nov 21st. Walthamstow Res, four adults on Mar 25th. West Thurrock Marshes, one on Jan 4th.
Herts	Amwell GP, adult in roost on Nov 24th. Hilfield Park Res, seven adults in roost on Feb 24th, singles on Mar 16th and Nov 3rd.
Middx	Staines Res, one on Feb 2nd and Mar 14th; a 1st-summer bird on July 19th.
Bucks	Q. Mother Res, one on Feb 26th and May 26th, two on Nov 2nd.
Kent	Crossness, singles on May 27th & 29th. Greenhithe, one on May 25th, three on May 26th.
Surrey	Beddington SF, one on Dec 15th and two on 18th. Island Barn Res, one on Mar 22nd and May 26th. London Wetland Centre, one on Mar 2nd, two on Apr 13th, singles on Apr 16th & 18th.

**0611 Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*  
 Status: uncommon passage migrant.

Exactly 100 individuals were reported and even allowing for some being seen more than once, 2008 has been the best year since 2004's total of 174 birds. Just a fifth this year were spring sightings, with three July records, and the majority, as expected, from mid-August to late September. The first were singles at the London Wetland Centre and QEII Res on Apr 22nd, with five at Rainham Marshes and one at the London Wetland Centre, on Sept 26th, the last of the year (cf Apr 15th and Oct 6th in 2007).

Essex	Beckton, two on Aug 31st. KGV Res, one on Sept 13th. Rainham Marshes, seen on 12 dates, the first a single on May 26th, max of six on Sept 24th and the last sighting five on Sept 26th. Thames Barrier Park/R. Thames, two on Sept 11th. Walthamstow, one flew over observer's garden on Apr 24th. West Thurrock Marshes, one on Sept 6th, two on 15th.
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- Middx Q. Mary Res, four on Sept 14th (seen later at Wraysbury Res, and presumed to be the same as seen earlier at Q. Mother Res). Staines Res, two on Apr 24th, one on May 4th and three on Aug 30th.
- Bucks Black Park, one heard on Apr 26th. Q. Mother Res, two on Apr 23rd, one on July 9th, two on Sept 6th, seven on 13th and four on 14th (see Middx).
- Kent Crossness, one on Apr 27th. Greenhithe/Swanscombe, three on May 26th, one on Aug 24th, three on 30th and one on Sept 7th. R. Thames, Greenwich, one on July 20th. Northfleet, one on Aug 30th.
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, two on Apr 22nd, nine on Aug 27th, six on 31st, one on Sept 14th & 26th. QEII Res one on Apr 22nd & 25th and May 26th.

**0615 Common Tern***Sterna hirundo*

Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first arrival was a single at Hilfield Park Res on Apr 4th (cf Apr 10th in 2007) followed by singles at Staines and Walthamstow Res in the next few days. The first double figure counts were 20 at Staines Res on Apr 15th, then 17 at KGV Res and 13 at Island Barn Res on Apr 17th. Staines Res topped the spring counts with a peak of 97 on Apr 29th, though Wm Girling Res came close with 90 on Apr 20th. As expected, the largest triple figure counts came in autumn, with 603 at Rainham Marshes on Sept 11th easily the highest (cf 840 in 2007) and 220 at Crossness on Sept 16th the next best. Away from the Lower Thames only Beddington SF, with 139 on Aug 27th, Q. Mother Res, with 110 on Sept 5th and Staines Res, with 120 on Aug 17th, surpassed 100 birds. The last autumn birds were an adult on Oct 23rd and a juvenile on 25th at Walthamstow Res (cf Oct 6th 2007).

A total of c. 166 breeding pairs was reported, which seems to reflect a declining trend in London's breeding population (cf c196 in 2007, 239 in 2006). Two of the most productive sites, Rye Meads and Walthamstow Res, showed significant declines on last year. At the rafts on Staines Res, a decrease, from 40 pairs ten years ago to 15 this year, mirrors the increase in nesting Black-headed Gulls (four pairs in 1998, 102 in 2008). Breeding data are summarised below (no. of pairs or broods in brackets).

- Essex Barking Bay, several bred on raft - downy young on platform. Belhus Woods CP (3). Walthamstow Res (31). Rainham Marshes NR, has not bred on site itself in recent years (cf comments re juvs in 2007 LBR).
- Herts Amwell GP (1+). Hampermill (2) seven fledged. Hilfield Park Res (9-10). Maple Lodge NR, bred. Rye Meads RSPB (33), 40 hatched but fewer than 30 fledged, reflecting predation by gulls and inclement weather. Stocker's Lake (8), 12 young on June 21st. Tyttenhanger GP (2) two broods of two.
- Middx Brent Res (22). Broadwater Lake (several). East India Dock Basin (7). Staines Res (15), just three chicks by July 28th, reflecting heavy predation.
- Bucks Thorney CP (12). Wraysbury GP (4+).
- Surrey Holmethorpe SP (1) but failed. London Wetland Centre (7), eight juvs in late June-early July. Walton Res (1) with juv on July 23rd.

In Lond Canada Water (1) nesting on raft. Hyde Park & Kensington Gdns, six records between May 15th and Aug 13th, four on Aug 13th. Regent's Park, two on May 4th & 24th, two pairs feeding single juvs on July 9th (not reared here). Tower Bridge, two on May 23rd, one on Aug 19th, four on Sept 2nd.

### 2007, Additional record:

Herts Common Tern, Hilfield Park Res, two pairs bred, two broods seen.

### 0616 Arctic Tern

*Sterna paradisaea*

Status: regular spring and autumn passage migrant, occasionally in flocks or among other terns.

This year's numbers were impressive, with eight flocks of over 30 birds (cf one in 2007 and six in 2006). A total of c. 931 birds were reported (though doubtless involving some duplication between sites) with about 40% in spring and 60% in autumn. The autumn total of 562 was the highest ever recorded and stems the normal bias in favour of larger counts during spring passage. However, by far the largest group at one site was 195+ at Staines Res on Apr 23rd - the highest number to be recorded at one site in the LNHS Area in recent times. It should be borne in mind, however, that in the past a significant number of records were assigned as "Commic" Terns, but the increased quality of optics and identification skills means that now more records are specifically assigned.

Middx showed a bias for spring records, whilst Essex showed a strong autumn bias, with large flocks on four days, three of them at Rainham NR. The first birds of the year were two at Beckton on Apr 14th (cf Apr 12th 2007) and the last was at Rainham Marshes on Oct 7th (cf Oct 14th 2007). A summary for each site, including some of the highest counts, is given.

Essex Barking Bay, one on Apr 19th and three on Aug 21st. Beckton, two on Apr 14th, six on Aug 31st. Fairlop Waters, one on Aug 14th and three dates in Sept. KGV Res, singles on Apr 22nd & 23rd, with two on Sept 13th. Rainham Marshes, five on Apr 20th, two on May 7th & 17th, seen on five dates in Aug, with 28 on 20th, and eight dates in Sept, with 92 on 11th, and the last one on Oct 7th. Thames Barrier Park/R. Thames, seen on three dates in Sept with 39 on 11th. Walthamstow Res, singles on Apr 16th & 20th and Aug 25th. West Thurrock Marshes, one on Sept 6th. Wm Girling Res, two on Apr 20th.

Herts Hilfield Park Res, c. 50 briefly on Aug 18th; a juv on Sept 10th. Stanborough Lakes, singles on May 23rd & 27th.

Middx Brent Res, seen on four dates in Apr, five on 23rd. East India Dock Basin, two on Apr 23rd, one on May 27th, 47 on Aug 21st, six juvs on 23rd, 13 on Sept 12th. KGV Res, juvs on Aug 15th & 24th (presumed same as Staines Res). Q. Mary Res, juvs on Sept 2nd & 12th. Staines Res, one on Apr 15th, then seen on a further seven dates in Apr with an influx of at least 195 on the morning of 23rd; up to five in May, four juv in Aug, then recorded on seven dates in Sept, with four juv on 9th and the last bird on Sept 30th. Stoke Newington Res, 43 on Sept 11th, flying SW, a first for this site.

- Bucks Horton GP, one on May 15th. Q. Mother Res, seven on Apr 30th, four juvs on Sept 7th.
- Kent Crossness, three on Apr 20th, one on May 5th, then seen on six dates in Aug, 11 birds incl at least five juvs involved. Greenhithe, ten on May 26th, one on Aug 24th, seven on Sept 11th, incl three juvs. Northfleet, juv on Aug 30th. Sevenoaks WR, two on Apr 21st and one on June 22nd.
- Surrey Beddington SF, three on Apr 20th, four on Sept 2nd. Holmethorpe SP, one on Apr 27th. Island Barn Res, 22 on Apr 23rd, 12 on May 10th. London Wetland Centre, 19 on Apr 23rd, one on Aug 30th. Walton Res, three on Apr 27th and a juv on Sept 6th.

**0624 Little Tern *Sternula albifrons***  
 Status: uncommon passage migrant.

This year's total of 41 birds represents an increase from 19 in 2007 and eight in 2006 - the best showing since 45 birds in 1992. Following a typical seasonal pattern, the majority of sightings fell between late April and mid May (Apr 27th-May 17th), and these were followed by two records in June. A total of 22 birds were recorded in autumn, including an amazing group of 14 at Staines Res on Aug 2nd (London's third largest flock, the top two ever recorded being 18 at Q. Mary Res on Sept 11th, 1992 and 19 - plus another group of 14 - at the same site on Aug 20th, 1987).

- Essex Rainham Marshes, one on May 4th and Aug 16th, three on Sept 11th (StrP; TWA, VaH). Walthamstow Res, one flying over on June 20th (LaP).
- Herts Aldenham Res, one on May 7th (FrM) (seen earlier at Hilfield Park Res). Hilfield Park Res, one on May 7th and two on June 1st (both MuS).
- Middx Brent Res, one on May 4th (VeA). Staines Res, two on May 9th, singles on May 15th, 17th & 27th, July 29th and Aug 3rd, but a flock of 14 briefly on the tern raft at 10:00 on Aug 2nd, before flying south (WaR, MoDJ; InRE & PuKL; InRE & PuKL; WaR; MoDJ & WaR; EvR; GrP & WaR).
- Bucks Q. Mother Res, one on May 17th (HeCDR).
- Kent Crossness, two on June 1st (ArJK).
- Surrey Beddington SF, one on May 17th (ALJP). London Wetland Centre, one on Sept 12th (MonD). QEII Res, one on Apr 27th, three on May 3rd (HaDM).

**0627 Black Tern *Chlidonias niger***  
 Status: fairly common spring and late summer-early autumn passage migrant.

Huge numbers were recorded this year, with a total of c. 950 birds seen, which, even allowing for some duplication, is an impressive figure (cf 191 in 2007 and 239 in 2006). The last similar year was 2001, with 930 birds. Essex accounted for about half the records. A flock of 151 moving past Thames Barrier Park along the Thames on Sept 11th was the highest count for one site (though the 91 recorded past Rainham Marshes on the same day possibly included some of the same birds). The first bird of the year was at Rainham Marshes on Apr 21st and the last three were at Wm Girling Res on Sept 21st (cf Apr 13th and Sept 10th 2007).

- Essex Barking Bay, six on Aug 21st, eight on 31st, then seen on three dates in Sept, peaking at 50 on 7th. Holyfield Lake, four on May 4th and 12 on Sept 11th. KGV Res, seen on four dates in May, peak of 16 on 4th; two on Aug 31st. Nazeing GP, one on May 7th. Rainham Marshes, one on Apr 21st, May 5th & 7th, then seen on five dates in Aug, peak of 15 on 31st, and four dates in Sept, peaking at 91 on 11th. Thames Barrier Park/R. Thames, peak of 151 on Sept 11th. Walthamstow Res, two on May 3rd, one on 23rd, a juv on Aug 17th and 15 on 31st. Wm Girling Res, three on Sept 21st.
- Herts Amwell GP, one on Apr 30th, then seen on five dates in May, with six on 6th; one on Sept 7th. Hilfield Park Res, two on May 5th. Seventy Acres Lake, one on May 15th. Stocker's Lake, two on May 5th. Troy Mill Lake, two on May 17th & 18th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Apr 30th, two on May 4th & 6th and five on Sept 13th.
- Middx Brent Res, one on Apr 20th, two on May 24th. East India Dock Basin, two on Aug 20th. Q. Mary Res, four on Apr 30th, one on Aug 17th, then seen on seven dates in Sept, max of six on 6th. Staines Res, singles on Apr 29th-30th, then seen on 14 dates until May 17th, with max of 20 on May 7th; four on June 1st; then ten days in Aug, with max of 17 on 17th, and 14 days in Sept up to 17th.
- Bucks Q. Mother Res, singles on Apr 29th, May 4th and Aug 1st & 31st, two on Sept 7th, one on Sept 8th and three on 9th.
- Kent Crossness, two seen on May 5th, three on 27th, then seen on 11 dates in Aug, peaking at 55+ on 17th, and five dates in Sept, peaking at five on 2nd & 5th. Greenhithe, seven on Aug 30th and six on Sept 11th. Northfleet, 11 on Aug 17th and three on Aug 30th. Woolwich Ferry, one on Sept 11th.
- Surrey Island Barn Res, one on Apr 29th and May 9th. London Wetland Centre, one on May 4th & 7th and Aug 20th. QEII Res, three on May 3rd, one on May 7th, June 7th and Aug 17th, two on Sept 13th and three on Sept 14th. Walton Res, one on May 27th, July 24th, Aug 17th, and Sept 3rd & 7th.
- In Lond Greenland Dock, 32 on Sept 9th flying high from E over R. Thames.

**0628 White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus***  
 Status: rare vagrant.

The sighting below represents the 33rd record for the LNHS Area and the first since a juvenile at Wm Girling Res on Sept 23rd 2006.

- Kent Crossness, a much photographed, moulting adult present from Aug 10th-14th, commuting between the outfall here and Barking Bay on the Essex side of the estuary (ArJK, Mrl).

**2007, Correction:**

- 0627 Puffin *Fratercula arctica***  
 Middx Q. Mary Res, Jan 21st. This record should be deleted.

- 0634 Guillemot *Uria aalge***  
 Status: scarce autumn and winter visitor, with occasional winter influxes.



The sighting on the R. Thames below is the 16th since the last significant influx of 90+ birds in 1986. Almost half the records are from the Thames.

Surrey One on the R. Thames between Putney and Isleworth on Sept 14th, seen near Dukes Meadows, Oliver's Island, Kew Bridge and Syon Park (AnN).

**0665**      **Rock Dove**      *Columbia livia*  
Status: abundant resident; now controlled in some locations.

The BTO Breeding Bird Survey shows a decrease of 22% in London (8% across the UK) from 1995-2008, perhaps reflecting control. However, this is a seriously under-recorded species, e.g. only two records were received in 2008 from Inner London, where this pigeon is undoubtedly still abundant, despite some authorities' efforts to discourage it. Only two records of more than one breeding pair were received from the whole of the LNHS Area. Birds now breed all year: nestlings were heard at Watford on Jan 1st.

Counts of over 200 birds, or 50+ within the built-up area, breeding records (no. of pairs in brackets) and all Inner London records are given below.

Essex Holyfield Hall Farm, 200 on Nov 19th. Highams Park (4). West Ham Park, highest count, 85 on June 14th.

Herts Tyttenhanger GP, over 1,000 on several occasions in Nov and Dec with a peak count of 1,200+ on Nov 16th. Watford, young heard on Jan 1st.

Middx Alexandra Park, bred. Lake Farm CP, counts of over 200 in most months from May with a peak count of 265 on Dec 6th.

Surrey Croydon, 50+ in town centre on Sept 7th. Holmethorpe SP, 220 on Oct 26th. London Wetland Centre, highest count 72 on Sept 24th. Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (5).

In Lond Lambeth, c.100 on a railway viaduct and trees near Archbishop's Park on Dec 23rd. Regent's Park, a few pairs bred.

**0668**      **Stock Dove**      *Columba oenas*  
Status: Breeding resident and passage migrant.

A total of 65-66 possible breeding pairs were reported this year (cf 70-80 in 2007). However, this species tends to be under-reported and pairs that were recorded only on a single date are not included in this figure. The BBS suggests a fluctuating population nationally, with little overall difference between 1995 and 2008. The highest count, like last year, came from Horton GP, where 500 were feeding on harvested grain in February. Breeding records are listed below (no. of pairs in brackets) followed by counts of 50 or more birds (20 or more within the built up area) and all records for Inner London.

Essex Orsett, 50 on Mar 3rd. Rainham Marshes, 85 on Dec 24th.

Herts Rye Meads (10). Blackbirds Farm, c.400 on May 8th. Haberdashers' Girls School, 100 on Mar 9th. Lynster's Farm, 60 on Apr 1st. Lynster's GP, 100 on Apr 6th. N. Mymms Park, 51 on Sept 20th. Shenley, c.60 on Mar 20th. Shenleybury, 200 on Apr 9th. Tyttenhanger GP, 100 on Oct 18th. West Hyde Fields, 150 on Oct 20th. Woodoaks Farm, 100 on Apr 20th.

Middx	Abney Park Cemetery (10). Brent Res (1). Stoke Newington Res (3). Bushy Park, 40 on Sept 3rd. Tottenham Marsh, peak of 25 on Mar 18th.
Bucks	Horton GP, 500 on Feb 8th.
Kent	Bexley Woods (2). Foots Cray Woods (7-8).
Surrey	Richmond Park (19). Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (4). Beddington, 22 on Mar 6th. Epsom Downs, 50 on Jan 6th. Holmethorpe SP, 50 on Feb 28th. London Wetland Centre, 21 on Dec 21st. Rushett Farm, 60 on Oct 2nd. Selsdon Park, 24 on Jan 26th.
In Lond	Regent's Park (10) a few juv seen. Hyde Park & Kensington Gdns, six on Jan 2nd.

## 0670 Woodpigeon

*Columba palumbus*

Status: abundant breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The BTO Breeding Bird Survey shows an increase of 72% in London's Woodpigeons (35% across the UK) from 1995-2008. However, this species is substantially under-reported in the breeding season in our records. Autumn passage receives better coverage, with a minimum of 17,425 birds counted, many in passage flocks flying overhead. This total is somewhat lower than in some recent years (32,970 in 2007; 105,420 in 2006). Only two large wintering flocks were reported: 2,500+ at Cuffley on Dec 31st and 2,000 roosting at Cornmill Meadows on Dec 18th.

Within the built-up area, some of the highest counts were 550 flying over Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath on June 1st; 153 at Danson Park on June 5th; 50 at Crossness on Aug 26th; 51 at West Ham Park on Oct 12th and 300 at Alexandra Park on Oct 28th.

## Woodpigeon - highest autumn counts 2008

Date	Total of highest counts	No. of sites	Site and direction (for overhead flocks)
Sept 6th	2,000	1	Norwood (ESE).
Sept 24th	750	1	Holmethorpe SP.
Oct 1st	600	1	Orsett.
Oct 16th	700	1	Orsett.
Oct 17th	665	2	500 London Wetland Centre (SSW); 165 Watford (S).
Oct 18th	2,310	2	2,000 Holmethorpe SP; 310 London Wetland Centre (SW).
Oct 21st	3,000	1	Waltham Abbey, Gunpowder Mills.
Oct 27th	2,550	2	1,750 Banstead; 800 London Wetland Centre.
Oct 28th	3,630	3	2,600 Streatham Common (WSW); 670 Berrylands (SW); 360 London Wetland Centre (S).
Oct 29th	850	1	700 Beddington SF (SW); 150 Richmond Park (S).
Oct 30th	150	1	London Wetland Centre (SW).
Nov 12th	220	1	Beddington SF (NE).

- 0684 Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*  
 Status: common breeding resident, still scarce in central London.
- The BTO Breeding Bird Survey shows an increase of 57% in London (26% in UK) between 1995 and 2008. However, this species appears to be under-recorded in our Area. South of the Thames, systematic survey shows the Collared Dove to be well-established in the Croydon area, where it was found in 94% of gardens (RSPB Croydon Group). Yet the LNHS received only two records from the whole of Middx; whether this reflects true scarcity in parts of north London remains to be seen. No doubt the next Atlas survey will clarify the picture.
- Peak counts of 25 or more birds, and all records from the Inner London boroughs and other recently-colonised areas, are listed below.
- Essex Hangman's Wood, Grays, 90 on Jan 7th. Grays, Southend Rd, 49 on feeders on Oct 10th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 100 on Nov 11th. Orsett, Grey Goose Farm, 44 on Sept 23rd. Rainham Marshes, 37 on Dec 18th. Tylers Common, 25 on Nov 15th. Waltham Abbey, Breach Barns, 50 on Sept 14th. West Ham Park, one on Dec 1st.
- Herts Rye Meads, 27 on Nov 7th. Woodoaks Farm, 60 on Aug 11th.
- Middx Brent Res, several territories. East India Dock Basin, one on Apr 18th.
- Kent Sutton-at-Hone, 36 on July 31st.
- Surrey Sunbury, 21 on July 1st. Banstead, Warren Rd, 90 on Jan 19th. Thornton Heath, Virginia Rd, one in a garden on Nov 13th, a first for that locality. Molesey Heath (3). Wandsworth Common, one on Apr 24th and June 26th. Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (4).
- In Lond Regent's Park, one seen on four dates in spring and one date in autumn.
- 0687 Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*  
 Status: localised summer breeding visitor and scarce passage migrant.
- In sharp contrast with the previous species, the Turtle Dove has declined by 70% in the UK between 1995 and 2008 according to the BBS. The decline may be steeper in London and the future for this species looks bleak. Whereas in 2006 and 2007, there were 12 and six pairs respectively, this year there were possibly only two, with breeding probably occurring only at Limpsfield Chart and Rye Meads. Excluding these sites, only 33 records were received; three were in April, 14 in May, eight in June, two in July, three in August and three in September. All records are listed below.
- Essex Belhus Woods CP, one on July 20th. Fishers Green, one on May 3rd. Epping Forest, Lippitts Hill, one on Apr 16th. KGV Res, one on May 4th. Netherhouse Farm, one on Aug 28th. Ongar Park Wood, a pair on May 5th. Rainham Marshes, one on May 18th, June 4th, Aug 20th, Sept 9th & 18th.
- Herts Amwell GP, one on Apr 21st, May 7th, 28th & 31st, June 5th and July 1st. Blackbirds Farm, two on May 18th. Berrybushes Wood, one on May 19th. Rye Meads, 1-2 seen on 17 dates between Apr 20th and June 14th. Stanstead Abbots, one on June 7th & 30th.
- Middx Brent Res, one flew over on Apr 26th. Alexandra Park, one on May 25th. Lake Farm CP, one on May 28th.

- Kent Dartford Marshes, one on Aug 6th. Sevenoaks, one on May 15th.  
 Surrey Limsfield Chart, pair probably bred. London Wetland Centre, one on May 5th. Trevereux, one on Apr 22nd.  
 In Lond Regent's Park, one on May 4th and Sept 25th.

**0712 Ring-necked Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*  
 Status: naturalised breeding resident, increasing in range and number.

Reported from a total of 206 sites (148 last year) including notably more in Herts and Essex than in the past. Considering this species' rapid increase, very few confirmed breeding reports have been received. Birds were often reported at possible nest-holes, but juveniles were only recorded at two sites, Mar Dyke Valley and Greenwich Park.

Roost counts were received from five sites, giving a total of 10,750 birds. The Stanwell area has become a stronghold, in addition to Esher-Ewell and Hither Green, with more recently-discovered roosts at Perivale and Wormwood Scrubs (see [www.projectparakeet.co.uk](http://www.projectparakeet.co.uk)). An unusual roost site on Dec 10th was the spire of All Saints Church, Blackheath. Fewer records were received from Inner London than in 2007, and none from Kensington Gardens, where the species bred last year.

A summary for each vice-county follows, including probable breeding reports (no. of pairs, territories or nests in brackets), some of the highest counts, including major roosts, and all records for Inner London.

- Essex Reported from 36 sites with 20+ birds at one site. Mar Dyke Valley, bred (2 pairs with juv). Rainham Marshes, 67 on Oct 30th.  
 Herts Reported from 42 sites, though none with over 20 birds. Maple Lodge NR (1) pair at nest site. Otterspool (1) probably bred.  
 Middx Reported from 21 sites, with 20+ birds at four sites. Brent Res, 89 flying SW to roost on Dec 2nd. Staines Moor, 200 flew E in evening on July 1st. Staines Res, 424 flew W on Sept 9th. Stanwell, the roost of 1,000+ continues; 1,200 seen on Dec 14th.  
 Bucks Reported from seven sites with 20+ at two sites. Wraysbury GP, 220 flew E on Aug 30th.  
 Kent Reported from seven sites with 20+ at three sites. Greenwich Park, young seen at nest hole. Foots Cray Meadow, 105 on Dec 25th. Hither Green Cemetery, roost of 3,000 on Jan 19th.  
 Surrey Reported from 94 sites with 20+ at 28 sites. Beddington (3), 285 flew S on Oct 27th. Cannon Hill Common (4). Lloyd Park, Croydon, pair at nest hole. Wimbledon Common (5+). Holmethorpe SP (1). Roosts of: 4,000 at Scotts Farm Rd, Ewell on Jan 20th; 2,100 at Hersham GP on Aug 23rd and 450 at Holmethorpe SP on Oct 26th. Ham Lands, 300 o/h on Dec 12th. London Wetland Centre, 104 on Dec 15th. Addington Vale Park, 100 on Sept 29th. Richmond Park, 100 on Oct 23rd. Surbiton, 100 on June 8th.  
 In Lond Archbishop's Park, one on May 11th. Regent's Park, up to six in Jan. Southwark Park, four on Dec 8th. Tower of London, two on Apr 4th.

0724 Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

A total of about 90 calling birds were recorded in 2008, compared with 111 last year; of these, 71 were recorded in spring (Apr and May), 14 in summer (June) and five in autumn (July to Sept). The first was at Hall Marsh on April 9th and the last at Rainham on Sept 20th.

The only confirmed breeding records were from Amwell GP, where a female was seen parasitizing a Reed Warbler nest, and Rickmansworth LNR, where a begging juvenile was seen in the Withy Beds on July 8th. Juvenile birds were also seen at least once between late June and September at Bushy Park, the Ingrebourne Valley and Rainham Marshes. Birds were also seen or heard regularly (ie on ten or more dates) at Crossness, the Ingrebourne Valley, Rainham Marshes, Rye Meads and Tyttenhanger GP. Sites where birds were seen or heard on at least two dates (one within the London boroughs) are listed in the table below.

Cuckoo seen or heard	← Spring →	Summer	Autumn	
Essex	Barking Outfall, Bedfords Park, Dagenham Chase, Epping Forest, Fishers Green, Hall Marsh, Ingrebourne Valley,	Lakeside Shopping Centre, Mar Dyke Valley, Rainham Marshes, Sewardstone Marsh, Walthamstow Reservoirs.	Belhus Woods CP, Ingrebourne Valley, Mar Dyke Valley, Rainham Marshes.	Ingrebourne Valley, Rainham Marshes.
Herts	Amwell GP, Beech Farm GP, Cheshunt GPs, Cole Green Tip, Colney Heath, Croxley Moor, Hatfield Park,	Hilfield Park Res, Maple Lodge NR, Northhaw Great Wood, Rye Meads, Seventy Acres Lk, Tyttenhanger GP, Welham Green.	Amwell GP, Hatfield Park, Rye Meads.	Tyttenhanger GP.
Middx	Enfield (Hilly Fields Park, Parkside and Vicarage Farms), Staines Moor,	Tottenham Marsh, Totteridge Valley, Trent Park.	Alexandra Park, Brent Res.	Bushy Park.
Bucks	Wraysbury GP.		Wraysbury GP.	
Kent	Crossness, Swanscombe Marsh.		Crossness, Swanscombe Marsh.	
Surrey	Bookham Common, Holmethorpe SP, Kenley, Richmond Park,	Wimbledon Common.	Beddington SF, Bookham Common, Kenley, London Wetland Centre.	Beddington SF.
In Lond	Regent's Park.			

- 0735 Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*  
 Status: rare breeding resident.
- With only two confirmed breeding pairs, this year was down again on 2007's bare minimum of five breeding pairs. However, several other birds were resident during the spring and summer, allowing some cause for lingering optimism.
- Essex Reported from 10 sites. One pair bred producing two broods, the first of four chicks, the second at least two.
- Herts Reported from 21 sites, though some duplication is possible and sadly two of the records were of dead birds. One pair produced three chicks, and another was seen hunting as a pair during the breeding season.
- Middx Reported from two sites. A pair was seen hunting during the breeding season.
- Bucks One at Q. Mother Res on evening of July 29th.
- Kent Birds were reported at three sites.
- Surrey Recorded at six sites. One pair was present in the breeding season.
- 
- 0757 Little Owl** *Athene noctua*  
 Status: localised breeding resident, introduced to UK in the 19th century.
- With records from 101 sites, some with sightings throughout the year, but breeding confirmed only at 25 sites, it is apparent that breeding behaviour in this species is severely under-reported. A concerted survey at Richmond Park, for instance, revealed at least 18 breeding pairs, whereas in 2007 only one pair was known to have produced young. Observers are encouraged to survey likely sites thoroughly in the breeding season.
- The notes below give a summary for each sector with further details for sites with evidence of breeding (no. of pairs/nests in brackets).
- Essex Reported from 15 sites. Netherhouse Farm, Sewardstone, two on at least three dates. Walthamstow Marsh (1) two young seen.
- Herts Reported from 49 sites. Cassiobury Park (1), one juv seen. Croxley Green (1), two young seen. Smallford, Colney Heath Lane (1), one fledgling seen. Briggens near Roydon (1) bred. Jersey Farm (1) probably nested. Radlett (1), probably bred. Stocker's Farm (1), three young seen.
- Middx Reported from six sites. Brent Res, one on several dates in early Dec. Bushy Park, present throughout year. Vicarage Farm, Enfield (1), two young seen. Staines Moor, probably bred.
- Kent Reported from five sites.
- Surrey Reported from 26 sites. Richmond Park (18) bred; also activity at 12 other possible locations in the park. Prince George's PF (1) probably bred.
- In Lond Regent's Park (1) bred.
- 
- 0761 Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*  
 Status: common breeding resident in outer parts of the LNHS Area, scarce towards the centre.



Reported from 127 sites (86 in 2007) but only eight confirmed breeding pairs. It is suspected that this is another species which is severely under-recorded in the breeding season, particularly when judged by the fact that c. 30 birds, or pairs, were heard calling or duetting in late winter and early spring. A previously suspected reluctance on the part of observers to visit urban and suburban woodlands at night appears to be confirmed, but formal surveying would help establish the species' real status.

- Essex Reported from 18 sites. Lee Valley Camp Site, Sewardstone (1), young heard in June.
- Herts Reported from 16 sites. Hatfield (1), two fledglings seen. Northaw Great Wood (1), at least one pair bred successfully. Rye Meads (1 failed).
- Middx Reported from nine sites. Abney Park Cemetery (1), a pair raised three young. Brent Res, pair calling in Aug and Dec.
- Kent Shenstone Park, one on Apr 2nd.
- Surrey Reported from 82 sites. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (2), two pairs bred, birds seen or heard in several other areas. Riddlesdown (1). Limpsfield Chart, 1-2 pairs "probably resident". Trevereux, resident. Upper Norwood, heard regularly throughout year.
- In Lond Kensington Gdns, 1-2 present on five dates; Regent's Park (1), one pair bred successfully, another pair present throughout year.

### 0767 Long-eared Owl

*Asio otus*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant; rare breeder.

It was good to see a return to breeding this year, but with no records from Kent, Middx or Bucks, it is likely that this secretive and mobile species is slightly under-recorded.

- Essex Sewardstone Marsh, one on Jan 2nd. Dobbs Weir, one on Jan 6th. Site A (1), one pair bred successfully, young seen on June 1st.
- Herts Site B, one on Mar 27th.
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on Apr 3rd. Beddington SF, roosted regularly between Nov 27th and Dec 28th, max of five on Dec 26th.





JPPW

**0768 Short-eared Owl***Asio flammeus*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant, with occasional influxes; rare in summer.

Reports were received from a total of 13 sites, the same number as last year. As usual, most of the birds were seen during the winter or spring and autumn passage periods, with mid-summer records from just two sites. However, it is good to report that one pair bred within the LNHS Area.

- Essex Rainham Marshes, up to three birds seen between Jan 1st-Apr 24th and Oct 17th-Dec 30th. Fairlop Waters, one on Mar 21st-22nd and five dates between Sept 14th and Oct 3rd.
- Herts Beech Farm GP, two on Jan 1st, then up to three until Mar 17th, two from Sept 18th-Nov 17th. Hatfield Aerodrome (disused), two on Jan 1st, three on Nov 15th and up to Dec 20th. Hatfield Park, one "singing" on Apr 22nd.
- Middx Brent Res, one on Sept 20th and Oct 15th, mobbed by crows. Stoke Newington Station, one flew E on Oct 9th. Ten Acre Wood, Hayes, one on Oct 18th. S. Ruislip, one on Oct 25th. Bedfont Lakes CP, one on Nov 24th.
- Bucks Q. Mother Res, one on Sept 14th and Nov 26th.
- Kent Crossness, one on Nov 16th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, singles on May 27th, Oct 28th & 29th, Nov 6th, Dec 7th, 9th & 14th. London Wetland Centre, one on Nov 17th. Richmond Park, singles on Nov 27th, Dec 2nd, 3rd, 5th & 6th.

**0778 European Nightjar***Caprimulgus europaeus*

Status: rare passage migrant and occasional summer breeding resident.

As the species has long been in decline in the London Area, the continued presence of two possible pairs at one site, and a bird seen over two weeks in suburban south London, might be a cause for optimism.

- Surrey Site A (1+), signs of breeding by at least one pair were recorded by several observers, plus at least one additional churring male (mo). Upper Norwood, one female present for two weeks from late Aug to Sept 10th (JoC).

- 0795 Common Swift** *Apus apus*  
 Status: common, though probably declining, breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.
- The first sightings this year were at the London Wetland Centre, Walthamstow Res and Wraysbury GP on Apr 17th, a little later than last year. As expected, the big push followed towards the end of April and into May. The last bird of the year was at Rainham Marshes on Sept 20th.
- Despite the high number of flocks reported throughout late spring and summer, only nine breeding sites were located, six in the Surrey sector and three in Herts. This doubtless mainly reflects under-recording; it can be quite difficult to see where Swifts are nesting, but careful searching could be productive. There is concern that Swifts are declining, partly because of a lack of nesting habitat in renovated and modern buildings, so more nesting records would be welcome.
- A partially albinistic bird was seen at Walthamstow Res on Apr 30th (as in 2007) and a small "runt" was seen in a flock at Ewell Village on Apr 26th.
- Some of the highest counts in each sector are given below, together with notable counts for their location in more urban areas, and all records of nesting.
- Essex Rainham Marshes, c. 1,000 on May 18th. Walthamstow Res, 300 on May 17th. Waterworks NR, 12 on Apr 27th. Wanstead, seven on May 7th-9th.
- Herts Radlett, c.1,000 on July 23rd. Garston (4), nesting at a traditional site. Cheshunt (1+), at least one pair bred.
- Middx Brent Res, 1,600 on July 19th. Staines Res, c.1,500 on May 17th. Alexandra Park, 50 on Apr 27th. East India Dock Basin, 20 on May 16th.
- Bucks Q. Mother Res, c.2,000 on July 9th and c.3,000 on Aug 2nd.
- Surrey Beddington, 100 on May 18th. London Wetland Centre, 100 on May 2nd. Richmond Park, 250 on May 19th. Tooting Common, 11 on July 13th. Wandsworth Common, 16 on July 22nd. Croydon, nesting in two old church towers. Sanderstead, five birds entering eaves in Briton Hill Rd. Surbiton, (1) nesting in Maple Rd. Sutton (1). Weybridge (5) nesting in old buildings in High St.
- In Lond Regent's Park, 40 on May 4th.

- 0831 Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*  
 Status: locally common breeding resident, with additional birds in winter.
- Recorded at c.132 localities, a similar number to 2007 (149 localities), with the highest numbers at individual sites reported in late February and Aug-Oct. As last year, there was a striking lack of breeding records, with only about 15 pairs located, over half of these in Herts. More breeding records would be welcome. The nearest nesting sites to the city centre were at Richmond Park, Brent Res and Walthamstow Res.
- Breeding records (including possible, probable and confirmed pairs), notable counts and other records of interest are given below.

- Essex Waltham Abbey (1), nested along the Cornmill stream in the town centre. Walthamstow Res (1), nest in hole in bank of No. 5 Res. Rainham Marshes, seen in all months except June, four on Sept 13th, 14th & 18th. Singles were reported from many other sites.
- Herts Amwell GP (1), present all year, bred. Bricket Wood Common (1). Maple Lodge NR (1), adult carrying fish on June 22nd. Otterspool (1), pair displaying on Apr 2nd. Sopwell Mill (1), pair displaying on Apr 2nd. Rye Meads, present all year, with max of eight on Aug 30th.
- Middx Brent Res (1-2), probably bred. Staines Res (1 nearby?), bird carrying food on July 20th, probably nesting nearby.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, six trapped during September.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, present throughout year, six on Feb 27th.
- Surrey Thorpe Water Park (1). Richmond Park, Beverley Brook, (1), five on Oct 2nd. R. Hogsmill, Elmbridge OS (1), pair seen during most of spring. Beddington SF, two juv on July 27th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, fem. present in winter. Rotherhithe, one on Nov 21st & 24th.

**0846 Hoopoe *Upupa epops***  
 Status: vagrant.

This strikingly handsome bird was seen for its eighth consecutive year.

- Essex Brentwood, one on Apr 26th (GrB).

**0848 Wryneck *Jynx torquilla***  
 Status: scarce passage migrant.

A good showing, after the absence of verified reports from the previous year, all found between Aug 28th and Sept 23rd. All records are given.

- Essex Fairlop Waters, one on Sept 7th & 12th (BeA; StuP). Rainham Marshes, one, from Sept 17th-23rd, joined by another on 19th-20th, both feeding on or around the seawall (StrP, HaP, *et al*).
- Middx Lake Farm CP, one on Sept 8th-9th (NaP). Tottenham Marsh, one on evening of Sept 12th (BoL).
- Bucks Q. Mother Res, one on Aug 28th, 11:30-12:00 on bank near Yacht Club (HeCDR).
- Kent Greenwich Peninsula, one on Sept 18th (EIC).
- Surrey Beddington SF, 1st-winter bird trapped and ringed on Sept 7th (NeM1 *al*). Warlingham, probable juv found in a garden on Sept 26th, later died (SaB).

**0856 Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis***  
 Status: common breeding resident.

Recorded from 211 sites this year, the most since 2005, with at least 119 breeding, or potentially breeding, pairs. Herts had the most pairs, followed by Essex and Surrey. Many more records of the distinctive territorial call were reported than of confirmed breeding pairs, and observers are encouraged to seek full breeding information where possible.



Nesting was reported from several quite urban parks, eg Alexandra Park and Grovelands Park in north London, Beckenham Place Park in Lewisham, with two pairs in Inner London at Regent's Park. Birds were also present in the breeding season at West Ham Park, Wandsworth Common and Tottenham Cemetery. In Croydon, Green Woodpeckers were reported as visiting 59% of gardens (RSPB Croydon Group survey).

The notes below summarise records for each sector, giving further details for a selection of sites with higher breeding counts or location within the London boroughs (figs in brackets are no. of pairs/territories).

- Essex** Recorded from 45 sites. Belhus Woods CP (1+) bred, 13 on June 6th. Cornmill Meadows (2), two pairs bred successfully. Highams Park Lake (1) young seen. Grays Cemetery (1), bred. Grays Chalk Pits (1), bred. Larks Wood, Chingford (1), pair present in breeding season. Mar Dyke Valley, Davy Down (1+), nine adults + four young on Aug 1st.
- Herts** Recorded from 69 sites. Bedmond (4). Berrybushes Wood (3-4). Bricket Wood Common (12). Elstree (3). Garston (7-8), juvs seen. Merry Hill (3), juvs seen. Radlett (6), juvs seen. St Albans (4). Tyttenhanger GP (4-5).
- Middx** Recorded from 26 sites. Alexandra Park (1). Brent Res (1). Enfield, Parkside Farm (1), Vicarage Farm (1). Grovelands Park (1). Oakwood Park (1). Trent Park (1). Tottenham Cemetery 1-4 in October.
- Kent** Recorded from 27 sites. Beckenham Place Park (2). Danson Park, up to three throughout year. Foots Cray Woods (3). Joyden's Wood, up to nine throughout year.
- Surrey** Recorded from 42 sites. Barnes Common (1). Kingston, Lower Marsh Lane (1). London Wetland Centre area (1). Nonsuch Park (1). Richmond Park (3). S. Norwood Lake (1). Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (20).
- In Lond** Regent's Park (2). Hyde Park & Kensington Gdns, three on Jan 1st.

**0876 Great Spotted Woodpecker**

*Dendrocopos major*

Status: common breeding resident.

Recorded from 262 sites this year, with over 192 breeding pairs, a notable increase on last year's counts. Even so, these figures must only be a fraction of the whole population in the LNHS Area. Observers are encouraged to submit any sightings which might indicate breeding activity.

The notes below summarise records by sector, with numbers of territories/breeding pairs in brackets (in the outer parts of the LNHS Area only the most important breeding sites are given).

- Essex Recorded from 52 sites. Belhus Woods CP (1). Chafford Hundred, Warren Gorge (1). Chingford, Larks Wood (5). Cornmill Meadows (2). Dagenham Chase (1). Epping Forest: Connaught Water (1). Grays, Lion Gorge (1). Highams Park, Coolgardie Ave-station (1). Highams Park Lake (2). Mar Dyke Valley, Davy Down (1). Orsett (1). Valentines Park (1).
- Herts Recorded from 85 sites. Berrybushes Wood (4-5). Bricket Wood Common (16) 16 territories, with at least two nests. Fir & Pond Woods (3). Garston (7-8). Northaw Great Wood (5+). Otterspool (2). Radlett (4). St Albans (5).
- Middx Recorded from 29 sites. Abney Park Cemetery (7). Alexandra Park (1). Brent Res (2), two pairs bred. Bushy Park (2). Enfield: Parkside Farm (1); Vicarage Farm (1). Oakwood Park (1). Stoke Newington Res (2). Trent Park (2).
- Kent Recorded from 27 sites. Bexley Woods (2). Danson Park (1). Foots Cray Woods (4). Joyden's Wood (resident). Sidcup, Lamorbey Park (1).
- Surrey Recorded from 66 sites. Cannon Hill Common (3). Kingston (2) includes juvs seen in gardens. London Wetland Centre (1). Richmond Park (18). Surbiton (1+), several records from gardens. Tooting Common (1). Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (50).
- In Lond Recorded from five sites. Archbishop's Park (1). Regent's Park (6). Hyde Park & Kensington Gdns, seven on Jan 1st. Russia Dock Woodland, present in Sept, Nov and Dec. Southwark Park, seen in Dec.

**0887 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor***  
 Status: scarce and declining breeding resident.

Recorded at 88 sites this year, a further increase on last year's figure, though this total includes wandering birds in winter, tempering any optimism regarding an increase in London's breeding population. Evidence of breeding came from 20 sites, with no more than one territory found in each, which is fewer than last year (2007: 27 sites; 2006: 23 sites; 2005: 39 sites). However, it is likely that gaps in coverage are responsible for much of the apparent fluctuation. Sector site totals and breeding records (including all possible, probable and confirmed breeding) are given below.

- Essex Recorded from 24 sites. Ongar Park Wood (1). Wanstead Park (1).
- Herts Recorded from 25 sites. Bricket Wood Common (1). Cassiobury Park (1). Garston (1). Haberdashers' Girls School (1). Harperbury, nr Hounswood (1) one giving "advertising call" on Apr 9th. Maple Lodge NR (1). Otterspool (1).
- Middx Recorded from 12 sites. Alexandra Park, seen in Jan, Apr and Nov. Brent Res, seen on 11 dates, with two on Aug 30th. Bushy Park (1). Ruislip Woods NNR (2). Trent Park (1).
- Kent Recorded from 7 sites. Foots Cray Woods (1). Maryon Wilson Park, seen in Apr and Sept.
- Surrey Recorded from 20 sites. Croydon, recorded in 4% of 101 gardens (RSPB Croydon Group survey). Richmond Park (1) one pair bred, 5-8 pairs holding territory. Tooting Common (1), juv seen in May. Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (1+) scarce this year but probably bred.



- 0974 Woodlark** *Lullula arborea*  
 Status: scarce passage migrant and occasional rare breeder.  
 Records were sparse this year with no reports of breeding. No reports at all were received from two sites in Surrey, where breeding occurred in 2004, or from the Bucks site where birds have been seen in the breeding season in recent years. So the question arises, has the Woodlark been lost again as a breeding species in the LNHS Area? However, on a positive note, up to nine birds stayed for nearly three weeks at a Sidcup site in December.
- Kent Sidcup, Riverside Road, nine from Dec 3rd-6th, eight on 9th, seven on 10th and six from 11th-22nd (CIP).
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, three flew west on Oct 29th (MonD). Richmond Park, one on Oct 12th (AnN, WiJPP, LeM).
- 2007, Amendment:**  
 Surrey Site B, breeding by one pair was later confirmed at this site.
- 0976 Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*  
 Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.  
 The highest count in the first winter period was 230 on Jan 8th at Canon's Farm, Banstead, with c.100 at Holmethorpe SP on Jan 29th the second highest. During the autumn passage/second winter period, Rushett Farm, nr Epsom, held the largest flocks, with over 100 in late Oct-Dec, and 130 on Dec 4th and 6th. Other significant counts included 85 at Leavesden Green on Sept 27th, 75 at Holmethorpe SP on Nov 29th and Dec 7th and 72 at West Hyde on Nov 23rd. Closer to the city centre, 46 were recorded flying NW over the London Wetland Centre on Oct 31st and 35 flying W over Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath on Oct 25th.
- Essex Sewardstone, Netherhouse Farm, singing birds on several dates, breeding presumed. No further breeding information is available, but during the breeding season, 20 were seen or heard at Waltham Abbey (Breach Barns) and up to 16 at Rainham Marshes.
- Herts 53 territories at 11 sites incl: Berrybushes Wood (6); Bricket Wood Common (8-9); Chiswell Green (8); Moor Mill (3); Oxhey (1); Potters Crouch (8) and Woodoaks Farm (8).
- Middx 17 territories at five sites: Bushy Park (7); Lake Farm CP (1-3); Parkside Farm (1); Staines Moor (1) and Vicarage Farm (4), one juv seen.
- Kent 13 territories in three surveyed sites: College Farm (2); Crossness (2) on July 5th and Swanscombe Marsh (9).
- Surrey 34 territories reported from eight sites. Richmond Park (14) incl. one confirmed breeding pair. Beddington SF (2). Hershams GP (2). Riddlesdown (5). Rushett Farm (4).
- In Lond Regent's Park, singles on Oct 10th, Nov 3rd & 12th.
- 0981 Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*  
 Status: common summer visitor, localised breeder and passage migrant.

Spring arrivals started very early, with ones or twos on Feb 29th at Amwell GP, Holmethorpe SP and Island Barn Res, followed by one at London Wetland Centre on Mar 1st. For comparison, it is interesting to note that in "*Birds of the London Area*" (LNHS, 1964) the typical date for first arrivals is identified as late March!

The highest counts in March were 64 at Island Barn Res on 19th, 128 at Staines Res on 25th and 180 at Amwell GP on 29th. April passage was also strong, with 14 sites recording over 100 birds and peak counts of 300 at Amwell GP on 5th, 330 at Walthamstow Res on 6th, 112 at Brent Res on 14th and 350 at Staines Res on 19th. In May, there were 100 birds at Tyttenhanger GP on 3rd, 120 at Holmethorpe SP on 17th and 120 at Walton Res on 30th. Notable records in June were 162 at the London Wetland Centre on 4th, 250 at Rainham Marshes on 25th, and 100 at Holmethorpe SP and 50 at Richmond Park on 27th.



During the post-breeding period and autumn passage, the highest counts were 500 at Q. Mary Res on July 9th and Sept 6th and 600 at Staines Res on Sept 4th. However, 200 were seen at Walthamstow Res on July 18th, 150 at Greenhithe on Sept 7th and 120 at Holmethorpe SP on Sept 6th. The last bird of the year was seen at Richmond Park on Nov 8th.

Details of all reported breeding colonies are given below (no. of nests in brackets) followed by all records for Inner London. The London Wetland Centre colony appears to be increasing, a major new colony has been established at Walton Res and breeding was at last confirmed in the imposing artificial bank at Beddington SF. No breeding records were received from Herts, although birds were present during the breeding season at least at Tyttenhanger GP. Towards the city centre, birds were seen at East India Dock Basin on three dates in Apr and May, but sadly, without evidence of breeding this year.

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| Essex   | Belhus Woods CP (8). Chafford Hundred, Mill Wood (6). Stratford (3). Walthamstow Res (3+).   |
| Middx   | S. Harefield, bred at wharf (no figs). Stanwell Moor (20) occupied holes in late May but abandoned by late June.   |
| Surrey  | Beddington SF (17 nests, incl. 12 in the artificial bank). London Wetland Centre (72 nest holes visited). Portsmouth Rd FB (30 entering nest holes). R. Thames, Raven's Ait (12+ nest holes). Walton Res (172 nest holes). |
| In Lond | Regent's Park, one on Apr 4th & 13th, four on Sept 12th. R. Thames, Old Salt Quay PH, six on July 13th.  |

**2007, Amendment:**

Herts Sand Martin, Stocker's Farm, birds were seen prospecting but did not nest.

**0992 Swallow***Hirundo rustica*

Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant, breeding confined to rural areas.

The first sighting was a single bird at Island Barn Res on Mar 16th, followed by one at Horton GP the next day, then three at Island Barn Res on Mar 18th. Although a few March sightings have been usual in recent years, these are the first before Mar 20th since 2002. One or two were also recorded at six other sites in March. As usual, this trickle turned to a stream in April, with 100 at Amwell GP on 6th, 80 at Beddington SF on 13th, 120 at Rainham Marshes on 20th and 29th, 56 at London Wetland Centre on 25th and 100 at Hilfield Park Res on 30th. These figures are well above the highest April count of 35 in 2007. Spring numbers peaked in May with 200 at Staines Res on 16th and 250 at Rainham Marshes on 17th.

In August, only two sites had counts of 100 or more: 300 at Staines Res on 24th and 100 at Rainham Marshes on 29th. But the first three weeks of September brought a flood of high counts, with 11 sites recording 100+, including peak counts of 600 at Staines Res on 4th, 500 at Q. Mary Res on 6th, 550 at Regent's Park on 8th, and 280 at Beddington and 305 at London Wetland Centre on 14th. In October, 100 were seen at Rainham Marshes on the 1st but the highest count elsewhere was only 14. The last birds of the year were singles at Rainham Marshes and Grays on Nov 13th.

Breeding records were again patchy, and especially poor in Middx and Surrey compared with last year, although whether this is a genuine fall or the result of under-reporting is uncertain. It was good to see that a pair bred for the second year running in Richmond Park, now the closest breeding site to central London. All reported nesting records, with numbers of pairs in brackets, and all Inner London sightings follow. More nesting records would be welcome.

Essex Mar Dyke Valley, Davy Down (14 juv noted). Orsett (1).  
 Herts Bedmond (1). Bricket Wood Common (6). Garston (2) probably bred. Oxhey (1). Symondshyde Farm (2-3). Essendon (1).  
 Middx South Lodge Farm, Enfield (1). Stanwell Moor, Hitherfield Farm, prob bred.  
 Kent Lullingstone (1). Foots Cray Meadows (1).  
 Surrey Hersham GP (1). Long Ditton (1). Richmond Park (1). R Thames, Queens Promenade, Kingston (6) nesting under pier.  
 In Lond Regent's Park, one on Apr 4th, eight on Sept 1st, 550 on 8th, one on Oct 14th.

**1001 House Martin***Delichon urbicum*

Status: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first sighting was two birds over Dagenham Chase on Mar 16th (a relatively early date for this species). By the end of the month another eight birds had been reported from five sites. Counts in April were mostly

low but there were 150 at Holmethorpe SP on the 15th, 45 at Rainham Marshes on 20th and 50 at Stocker's Lake on 28th. May's peak count was 300 at Rainham Marshes on 17th, and counts of 150 were recorded at Holmethorpe SP on 15th and Hilfield Park Res on 25th. The only sizeable flocks in June were 120 at Rainham Marshes on 19th and 26th.

Autumn passage appeared to start in July, with 300 at Staines Res on 10th and 100 at Rye Meads on 12th, 19th and 20th. August peak counts were 500 at Staines Res and 300 at Rye Meads on 9th, and an impressive 750 passing over Lullingstone on 25th.

An extraordinary build up at Staines Res in September saw numbers grow from 100 on 3rd, to 1,400 on 6th, reaching 3,000 by 11th. Elsewhere, top counts included 180 at Hilfield Park Res on 5th, 100 at Richmond Park on 6th, 135 at Ingrebourne Valley on 8th and 215 at London Wetland Centre on 12th. In the first few days of October, 100-180 birds were recorded at Walton Res, Staines Res, Hilfield Park Res and Stoke Newington Res. The last three birds were seen at the London Wetland Centre on Oct 20th.

The species' breeding status in London continues to be uncertain. Only c. 250 pairs were reported (c. 300 last year). Although this may signal a real decline, the overlap in sites surveyed was only partial and numbers reported have fluctuated between c. 275 in 2002 and 390 in 2005. No breeding was recorded in Inner London, but it is uncertain whether the traditional nest sites near Hyde Park were checked. Breeding sites, with no. of pairs/nests if known, and all Inner London sightings are given below.

Essex	Chafford Hundred, Drake Rd (9); Warren Gorge ("17 juvs in nests"). Orsett, Rectory Rd (4). Chingford, Wadham Rd (2) and Mandeville Court (24). North Chingford (7). Sybourn School (1). Walthamstow FB (5), but only checked late in season, so some may have already left (24 prs in 2007).
Herts	Elstree, North Medburn Farm (1).
Middx	Alexandra Park (5). Brent Res, nearby on West Hendon Broadway (50). Dalston (3). Kempton Park NR (10). Ruislip, Breakspear Rd (3), Reservoir Rd (10). Mount Vernon Hospital (14). Stanwell Village (4).
Kent	Bexley College (4). Lullingstone Castle (11).
Surrey	Hersham (24). Limpsfield Chart (1) the first since 2000. Molesey (39). Thames Ditton (1). Sanderstead (4). Surbiton (7). Woldingham (2).
In Lond	Regent's Park, one on Apr 4th, 100 o/h on Sept 11th. R. Thames, Rotherhithe, 15 on July 7th, 30 on Sept 8th. Tower Bridge, 14 flew W on Sept 1st.

1002

Richard's Pipit

*Anthus richardi*

Status: rare visitor.

Two sightings follow the one last year, which itself was only the second since 2001. However, it is possible the Rainham and Crossness records below represent the same individual. This brings the LNHS Area total to 23. Unusually, this year's records were both in spring, and the first spring birds since 1995; more than 80% of previous records have been in autumn.

Essex  
Kent

Rainham Marshes, one seen on Apr 27th & 28th (MorD *et al*).  
Crossness, one on May 5th (ArJK).

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These White-fronted Geese *Anser albifrons* over Rainham Marshes RSPB in February were one of several parties seen in the London Area during the year. (David Darrell-Lambert)



Brent Goose *Branta bernicla* records away from the Thames included this confident migrant at Queen Elizabeth II Reservoir in April. A flock of 29 also flew over the same site in March. (Dave Harris)

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Drake Pintail *Anas acuta* at Rainham Marshes RSPB, where counts were again the highest in London, with up to 30 birds present during the early winter period. (Dominic Mitchell)



A female Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* guards her brood of ducklings on the bank of Queen Elizabeth II Reservoir. Although still very common in the London Area, the species has declined by 24 per cent since 1995. (Dave Harris)

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Garganey *Anas querquedula* is mainly a scarce passage migrant in the capital. This dapper drake was at the London Wetland Centre on 15 March. (Michael Rose)



London's third Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* turned up in October at Wraysbury GP, then relocated to Queen Mother Reservoir. (Michael McKee)

Showing the value of checking local patches and parks as well as the better-known reserves and reservoirs in the London Area, this Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica* lingered for four days in March in the unlikely location of Danson Park, near Bexleyheath. (David Darrell-Lambert)



The Surrey and west London reservoirs tend to produce a handful of Great Northern Divers *Gavia immer* most winters, and 2008 was no exception. This bird was at Queen Mother Reservoir in February. (Michael McKee)



The appearance of Manx Shearwaters *Puffinus puffinus* in London is closely linked with the weather. This bird was picked up in Paddington on 1 October and released on the Thames at Rotherhithe. (Richard Bonser)



The attraction of Queen Mother Reservoir to marine birds was proved again when this juvenile Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* appeared in late August. Another was at the same site earlier in the year. (Michael McKee)



Reported from some 135 sites during the year, numbers of Little Egrets *Egretta garzetta* peaked at Rainham Marshes, where a record 56 birds – double last year's maximum – were counted in July. (Dominic Mitchell)



Above: this atypically showy Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* found Berwick Ponds to its liking. (Les Harrison)

Left: Great Egrets *Ardea alba* continue to make erratic appearances, this individual visiting Beddington briefly in September. (Peter Alfrey)

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Sparrowhawks *Accipiter nisus* (above) are widespread in the London Area and often seen in the city centre, where one (left) took apart its Feral Rock Dove victim on the roof of the Soho Square offices of ornithological publisher Christopher Helm. (Dominic Mitchell, above, and Nigel Redman)

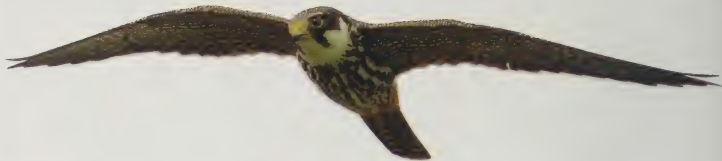


For the second successive year Red Kite *Milvus milvus* bred, one pair raising two youngsters. (Dominic Mitchell)

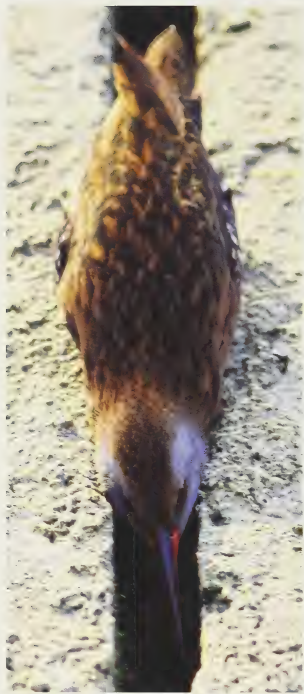
Left: captive Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* at Rainham. Birds are occasionally flown illegally at the site, a pitfall for the unwary observer. (Dominic Mitchell)

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Hobbies *Falco subbuteo* are widely seen on passage (here at Beddington), and about 16 pairs bred in 2008. (Peter Alfrey)



Above: this Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* found there was nowhere to hide at Walton Reservoir in March. (Dave Harris)



Three Common Cranes *Grus grus* at Tyttenhanger in April were a remarkable sight, especially when two of them were observed mating, but they were discovered to be wearing an odd ring type, suggesting a captive origin. (Dominic Mitchell)



Right: migrant Avocets *Recurvirostra avocetta* in spring included this bird at Queen Elizabeth II Reservoir. (Dave Harris)

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Beddington owes its continuing ability to attract waders to its sewage farm roots. Among many shorebird species recorded there during the year was Knot *Calidris canutus*, this juvenile being present on 23 August. (Peter Alfrey)



Queen Elizabeth II Reservoir produced Sanderlings *Calidris alba* in both spring (above, adult) and autumn (right, juvenile). (Dave Harris)



Also seen at Queen Elizabeth II Reservoir on autumn migration was this smart juvenile Little Stint *Calidris minutula*, which was present on 28 September. Another six or so were seen in London during the year. (Dave Harris)

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Grey Phalaropes *Phalaropus fulicarius* occasionally turn up after autumn gales, especially on the larger reservoirs, but this winter-plumaged adult found Hampton Court Park to its liking in November. (Andrew Moon)



Above: a second-winter Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* in the urban surroundings of Camberwell's Burgess Park. (Richard Bonser)

Right: a barge on the Thames near Wandsworth Park hosted London's first breeding Great Black-backed Gulls *Larus marinus*, here tending a chick. (Dave Harris)



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Left: the west London reservoirs are reliable for Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus* in spring and autumn, and this juvenile duly obliged at Staines Reservoirs on 24 September. (Andrew Moon)



Left: Common Terns *Sterna hirundo* are a regular sight along the Thames in east London. This adult was at East India Dock NR. (David Darrell-Lambert)



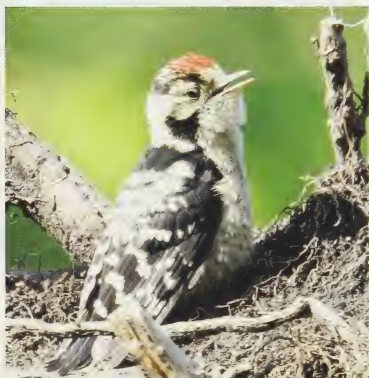
Below: a Common Guillemot *Uria aalge* was a far briefer visitor to the river at Chiswick in September. (Mick Massie)

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With roosts in London now attracting over 10,000 birds, numbers of Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* are regarded as potentially problematic. (Andrew Moon)



Above: this juvenile Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor* was at Cassiobury Park, one of 20 confirmed breeding sites. (Andrew Moon)

Above right: a Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* was ringed at Beddington in September. (Grant Prater)

Right: up to nine Woodlarks *Lullula arborea* were present in Sidcup at the year end. (John Archer)



Barn Owl *Tyto alba* just manages to hang on around the greener edges of the London Area, including the Thames marshes. (Les Harrison)



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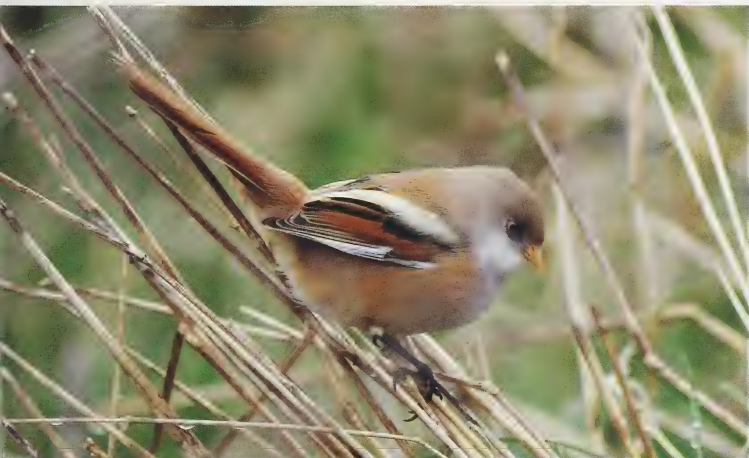




Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* is now firmly established as a breeding species, with marshland scrub in east London a key stronghold. (Les Harrison)



Also in the eastern sector was this Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*, which adopted a tiny patch of gorse at Rainham Marshes as its temporary home. (Jeff Delve)



Erratic in their appearances, Bearded Tits *Panurus biarmicus* have bred in London but are most likely to occur in autumn and winter. Rainham Marshes, where this one was photographed, is a favourite site. (Les Harrison)

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Probably under-recorded in London, Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris* was nonetheless reported from 30 breeding sites. (David Darrell-Lambert)



Rainham Marshes RSPB is the only regular wintering site for Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus* in Britain, with two again present in December 2008. (Jeff Delve)



Numbers of Starlings *Sturnus vulgaris* have fallen by 66 per cent nationally since the 1970s, a trend reflected in the capital's much-reduced population. This first-winter was photographed in Hyde Park. (David Darrell-Lambert)





Brent Reservoir's Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* in late September and early October was the 10th for the site but the first for over 30 years. (Roy Beddard)



Rainham Marshes produced a remarkable series of Serin *Serinus serinus* records, with up to seven birds present towards the year end. (Jeff Delve)



Wintering Siskins *Carduelis spinus* usually move north in early spring, but this male lingered in suburban gardens in Muswell Hill until mid-May and was often heard in song. (Dominic Mitchell)

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Wintering redpolls in Alexandra Park and nearby areas again included the occasional Mealy Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*, including this striking male in early February in Muswell Hill. (Dominic Mitchell)



No longer breeding locally, Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret* is now a passage migrant and winter visitor in varying numbers. This bird visited a feeder in a Muswell Hill garden. (Dominic Mitchell)



A pair of Reed Buntings *Emberiza schoeniclus* feeding on phragmites seeds at Rainham Marshes RSPB on a frosty December morning. This species is declining as a breeding bird in the London Area. (Dominic Mitchell)

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- 1009 Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*  
 Status: passage migrant and scarce, seriously decreasing breeding summer visitor.
- Only three singing birds were reported during the breeding season, the great majority of sightings being during the autumn migration. This is a sharp decline from 20 or 21 pairs ten years ago. No records were received from Epping Forest, which had been a traditional stronghold (though only one was reported there last year). If the records set out here represent a true picture of its status, this species must be in danger of being lost as a breeding bird from the London Area. It will be interesting to see if the new Atlas survey paints a brighter picture. All records are given.
- Essex Sewardstone: Netherhouse Farm, one singing from April 15th-May 20th then two from May 24th-July 1st, with three on telephone wires on Sept 14th; Gunpowder Park, single on May 13th; Sewardstone Marshes, single on Sept 25th. Bedfords Park, one on Sept 5th & 20th-28th. Dagenham Chase, one on Apr 23rd. Rainham Marshes, singles on Apr 10th, Aug 23rd, Sept 5th, 14th, 17th-19th & 22nd, three on Sept 21st and two on 29th. Tylers Common, one on Sept 18th. Wanstead Flats, one in flight on Sept 24th. W. Thurrock Marshes, four on Sept 15th.
- Herts N. Mymms Park, one overhead on Sept 14th.
- Middx Alexandra Park, one on April 24th, Aug 25th, 28th & 31st and Sept 10th & 16th. Clissold Park, two on Sept 25th. Enfield: Parkside Farm, one on Sept 15th; Vicarage Farm, one on May 1st and Aug 22nd. Staines Moor, one on Apr 20th & 24th. Trent Park, one on Aug 31st, Sept 9th & 25th.
- Kent Singles at Crossness on May 5th and Aug 31st.
- Surrey Beddington SF, singles on Apr 7th, Sept 7th & 18th, with two on Sept 8th. Holmethorpe SP, singles on Apr 20th and Sept 28th. London Wetland Centre, singles on Apr 29th, May 5th, Aug 28th, 30th & 31st and Sept 23rd, and two on Aug 26th. Riddlesdown, one on Sept 14th. Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath, a singing male on May 27th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, one on Apr 24th and 12 birds on five dates in Sept, including seven on 14th, during autumn passage.

- 1011 Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*  
 Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor, localised breeder.

In the first winter period, the highest counts in January were 55 at Staines Moor on 1st, 55 at Rye Meads on 11th and 65 in the Trevereux area on 26th. Similar numbers were recorded in February, with 52 at Tyttenhanger GP on 6th, 50 at Vicarage Farm on 21st and 26th, 50 at Hertford on 24th and 55 at Chipstead Lake on 26th.

Numbers built up during the spring passage period, with 148 seen flying N over the London Wetland Centre on Mar 26th, and another 230 passing over in 75 minutes on Apr 4th, and 107 over Clissold Park the same day. A flock of 102 was seen at Gunpowder Park on Apr 5th. Other high counts included 50 at Holmethorpe SP on Mar 11th, 50 at Woodoaks Farm on Mar 24th and 56 at Canon's Farm on Apr 20th.

Autumn passage was strongest in the second half of September, with counts of 150 at Beddington SF and 155 at London Wetland Centre on 14th, 120 at Rainham Marshes on 21st, 110 at Staines Moor on 27th and 200 the following day. Peak counts in October included 80 at Richmond Park on 6th and 80 at Rainham Marshes on 26th. During November, 50 were seen at Staines Moor on 2nd and 50 at Nore Hill, Chelsham on 4th. The highest count in December was 47 at Cuffley on Dec 24th.

Records of breeding, displaying or territorial pairs (no. of pairs in brackets) and all Inner London records are given below. At first sight, the data appear to show a major decline since last year, with only c. 25 pairs (cf 78 in 2007 and c. 145 in 2005 and 2006). However, no breeding figures were received from two major breeding sites, Rainham Marshes and the Ingrebourne Valley, or from either Richmond Park or Wormwood Scrubs, the nearest breeding sites to the city centre last year.

Essex	Netherhouse Farm (2).
Herts	Beech Farm (1), aerial display on Mar 30th and Apr 27th. Broad Colney (3). Colney Park (2). Colney Street (1). Hatfield Airfield (2). Hunton Bridge (1). Oxhey (1). Shenleybury (1). Woodoaks Farm (3).
Middx	Lake Farm CP (2-3), juveniles seen.
Surrey	Coulsdon, "probably bred". Hersham GP (1). Riddlesdown, "probably bred".
In Lond	Regent's Park, 36 on Apr 4th and 50 on Sept 9th.

#### 1014 Rock Pipit

*Anthus petrosus*

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor.

Rainham Marshes and Swanscombe Marsh continue to be the best sites for wintering birds, with records on 57 dates (and six or more birds on 25 dates) at Rainham, but only four dates at Swanscombe, though this is partly a reflection of Rainham's huge popularity with birders. Both sites had lower counts in the first winter period but higher ones in the second winter period than last year.

The table below shows peak counts at Rainham and all records for Swanscombe, with records for other sites following in the notes.

Rock Pipit	Jan	Feb	Mar	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rainham	11	11	4	1	14	10	22
Swanscombe	3	5	1	-	-	-	5

Essex	Barking Outfall, one on Nov 2nd, five on Dec 21st and two on 23rd. Newham (Armada Way), two on Nov 3rd. KGV Res, one on Mar 19th and Oct 19th. Walthamstow Res, one on Sept 20th & 28th and Oct 1st. W. Thurrock Marshes, two on Jan 4th & 13th, Mar 15th and Nov 7th, three on Dec 12th.
Herts	Hilfield Park Res, one on Nov 2nd. Tyttenhanger GP, two on Oct 18th.
Middx	East India Dock Basin, one on Sept 12th. KGVI Res, three on Oct 15th. Wraysbury Res, one on Oct 12th.
Bucks	Q. Mother Res, two on Oct 7th, five on 8th, one on 13th-14th, three on 15th and one on Nov 1st.
Kent	Crossness, 1-3 on four dates from Oct 18th-30th, two on Nov 7th, one on Nov 22nd and Dec 22nd.

- Surrey Beddington SF, 1-2 on four dates in Oct. London Wetland Centre, singles on Jan 8th, Mar 2nd & 18th, Apr 4th, Sept 10th, Oct 6th-8th and five days in Dec; two on Sept 26th and up to five from Oct 23rd-Nov 28th. QEII Res, two on Sept 25th, one on Oct 14th & 20th and Nov 3rd. Q. Mother Res, one on Oct 14th. Walton Res, two on Oct 30th, one on Nov 4th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, one on Mar 30th (was either this species or Water Pipit). Tower Bridge, one flying W on Dec 3rd.

**1015 Water Pipit***Anthus spinoletta*

Status: regular but localised winter visitor and passage migrant.

Monthly peak counts for the five most productive sites are shown in the table below. After a poor year in 2006, Staines Moor's numbers were back to around the usual level since 2003, and KGV Res had its highest spring count in the same period. London Wetland Centre again attracted a good number. Records from other sites are given in the notes.

Water Pipit		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	Rainham Marshes	4	3	4	2	2	2	5
Middx	KGV Res	3	10	4	-	2	3	2
	Staines Moor	12	6	8	-	2	5	2
Surrey	Beddington SF	4	3	3	1	1	4	4
	London Wetland Centre	5	2	4	2	2	2	2

- Essex Mayesbrook Park, one on Jan 18th. W. Thurrock Marshes, one on Jan 4th. Walthamstow Res, one on Mar 26th.
- Herts Rye Meads, one on Jan 11th, 12th & 19th, Nov 8th & 16th, Dec 5th & 6th, two on Nov 22nd and Dec 13th-14th.
- Middx East India Dock Basin, one on Dec 3rd. Staines Res, one on Jan 12th, Feb 8th, 16th & 17th, Mar 8th, Oct 26th, Nov 2nd and Dec 6th; four on Apr 2nd.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, one on Nov 5th. Swanscombe Marsh, one on Jan 1st, Dec 20th & 30th.

**1017 Yellow Wagtail***Motacilla flava*

Status: common passage migrant and decreasing, now scarce, breeder.

The first arrival was on the relatively early date of Mar 27th at KGV Res. This marked the start of a moderately good spring passage, with 27 at Staines Moor on Apr 20th and flocks of 10-16 at three other sites (up on 2007's largest flock of 12 birds, but well below 2004's flocks of 60-70).

Autumn passage was good at Rainham Marshes, with 30-55 birds on five dates in September, but elsewhere the only count of over 20 was 23 at South Lodge Farm, Enfield on Sept 16th. Nine sightings were reported in October, with the last one, a single bird at KGV Res, on Oct 12th. Little evidence of breeding was reported and no young seen, though birds seen in May and June at three Herts sites were "possibly breeding".

The table below gives the maximum counts for sites where birds were seen on at least ten occasions (albeit, perhaps because they are the best watched sites). Breeding records (no. of pairs in brackets), some of the



larger counts (ten or more in outer areas, three or more within the built up area) and all Inner London records follow in the notes.

### Yellow Wagtail

Site	Occasions seen	Maximum count	Date
Q. Mother Res	11	4	Sept 2nd
Rainham Marshes	46	55	Sept 20th
Walthamstow Res	12	9	Apr 20th
Tythenhanger GP	13	12	Sept 12th
Beddington SF	31	14	Aug 29th
London Wetland C.	40	16	Apr 22nd

- Essex Chingford, six flew over Frankland Rd on Sept 24th. KGV Res, 15 on Aug 23rd, 15 on Sept 13th and 12 on 14th. Rainham Marshes, 11 on Apr 20th, 15 on Aug 23rd, 19-55 on nine dates between Sept 7th-21st.
- Herts Battlers Green, Radlett (1). Bedmond (1). Shenleybury (1). Tythenhanger GP, 12 on Sept 10th and ten on Sept 12th & 13th.
- Midxx Alexandra Park, seen on eight dates, five on Sept 14th. Brent Res, seen on three dates, three on Sept 14th. South Lodge Farm, Enfield, 13 on Sept 8th and 23 on 16th. Staines Moor, 27 on Apr 20th, 16 on Sept 15th.
- Kent Crossness, seen on seven dates, max of four on Aug 31st.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 13 on Apr 19th, 14 on Aug 29th, 12 on Sept 8th and ten on Sept 13th. Holmethorpe SP, 16 on Aug 30th. London Wetland Centre, ten on Apr 20th and 16 on 22nd.
- In Lond Regent's Park, total of 22 seen over six dates (incl 14 o/h on Sept 14th).

There were also four reports of birds showing characteristics of Blue-headed Wagtails *Motacilla flava flava*:

- Bucks Q. Mother Res, a "classic spring male" on Apr 24th (HeCDR).
- Essex Walthamstow Res, one on May 22nd (LaP).
- Herts Tythenhanger GP, one on Apr 24th (BIS, FIR, KnG).
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on Apr 21st (KaR).

### 1019 Grey Wagtail

*Motacilla cinerea*

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

A total of 51 pairs/territories was reported from 35 sites - a small improvement on last year - but the number of breeding sites recorded was well down on the average for the past ten years (1998-2007 average, 65 sites, range 45-100 sites). This may simply reflect reduced recording effort, but could be a genuine trend, so more surveys would be welcome.

The notes below give breeding data (no. of breeding pairs or territories in brackets) for sites with two or more pairs (one or more within the London boroughs), followed by counts of five or more birds, together with all Inner London records.

- Essex Barking Park (1). KGV Res, six on Aug 29th and Nov 16th. Stratford (1). Waltham Abbey (2). Walthamstow Res, seven on Feb 6th. Wm Girling Res, six on Nov 16th.



Herts	Amwell GP (2). St Albans (3). Rye Meads (3), 2-3 recorded regularly, ten on May 24th and Aug 8th and 12 on Oct 4th. Watford (2).
Middx	Alexandra Park (1), five on Mar 24th. Brent Res (2). Hampton FB, five on Aug 19th. Richmond Park (2). Totteridge Valley (2). Salmons Brook (1). Tolworth Brook (1). Wandsworth Common (1).
Kent	Crossness (1).
Surrey	Beddington SF (2), five or more on nine dates, mostly in the second half of the year, ten on Oct 1st. Croydon (2). Holmethorpe SP (1), five on Sept 28th and Nov 2nd. R. Wandle: Carshalton-Morden Hall (2), Carshalton-Wandsworth, 14 on Dec 29th. Walton Res, five on Dec 11th. Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (2).
In Lond	Lambeth: Lambeth Rd, one on Oct 7th; Westminster Bridge Rd, one on Oct 16th. Regent's Park, up to four in autumn passage. Southwark, Copperfield St, one on Apr 4th.

**1020 Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*  
 Status: common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Although this characteristic London bird remains widespread in damp corners throughout the city, reports of breeding were few, with just c.16 sites in 2008 (13 in 2007), and only one from Inner London. This perhaps reflects an unfortunate tendency in some observers to consider our most typical species unworthy of attention.

The number of reported large winter roosts (100+ birds) was also down, about half that of any of the past three years, with no reports received from some sites that have held large roosts in the past (eg Croydon) and smaller numbers than usual in some other previously large roosts (eg Rye Meads). Unfortunately the BBS collects insufficient data on this species to calculate a London trend, so it is impossible to tell if this picture represents a genuine decline or simply reflects a reduced level of recording. A summary of breeding records, larger counts and Inner London records is given below.

Essex	Minimum of three nesting pairs. Roding Valley Meadows NR, 62 on April 18th and 51 on Aug 16th. Walthamstow Res, 49 on April 6th.
Herts	Minimum of four pairs in breeding season. Aldenham Res (1), six juvs in June. Rye Meads, three pairs in summer, 35 on Nov 25th. Maple Lodge NR, 100 on Nov 13th. Potters Crouch, Bedmond, 61 on Feb 21st.
Middx	Minimum of seven nesting pairs. Harlington Fields, 83 on Oct 14th. KGVI Res, 43 on Mar 3rd, 48 on Oct 5th. Holloway Rd, five near Argos, on Sept 16th.
Kent	Bluewater Shopping Centre, 40 roosting on Jan 1st.
Surrey	Minimum of five nesting pairs. Beddington SF, 50 on Oct 3rd. Holmethorpe SP, 300 on Jan 29th. Kingston, opposite Marks & Spencer, 50 roosting on Jan 16th. Sutton High St, 35 roosting on Feb 20th. Tolworth Broadway, 75 roosting on Jan 15th, 200 on Mar 5th and 150 on Sept 29th. Wimbledon, 100 roosting on Nov 1st.
In Lond	Regent's Park vicinity (1) one pair bred, peak of 11 on July 18th. Hyde Park & Kensington Gdns, two on Jan 2nd & 4th.

1020 **White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba alba*

Status: passage migrant, more commonly seen in spring than in autumn.

Perhaps the first record of breeding by this, the continental subspecies, in the LNHS Area was made this year, although only the female was definitely a White Wagtail, with the male possibly a Pied Wagtail. The birds nested in the wastewater management building at Wraysbury Res but the female and two young were seen subsequently at Horton GP. County avifaunas for Sussex, Kent and Essex mention records of mixed pairs of White + Pied Wagtails (although the Kent record was only a possible breeding pair).

A total of 92 sightings of passage migrants were reported (cf 57 in 2007, 130 in 2006), of which 59 were in March-May. However, some were probably duplicates seen on consecutive or near consecutive days. The highest count was seven at Walton Res on April 13th-14th.

Bucks Wraysbury GP (1); nest located to Wraysbury Res (HeCDR).

1048 **Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus*

Status: uncommon but sometimes numerous irruptive visitor.

A poor year with just nine records, totalling 24 birds, two in Feb-March, and seven in Nov-Dec. As only three birds were seen in the last three months of 2007, the winter of 2007/8 was especially poor for Waxwing. Numbers vary greatly from year to year, the last really good one being 2005, when 24 flocks of 50 or more were found. All records are given.



- Essex Bulphan Fen, four on Nov 9th. Collier Row, one on Dec 22nd. Mayesbrook Park, three on Dec 20th. Waltham Abbey, one on Dec 18th. Woodford Green, one on Mar 17th.
- Herts Marshalswick, St Albans, three on Nov 5th.
- Kent Darent Valley, Dartford, eight on Feb 5th. Welling, two on Dec 11th.
- Surrey Godstone, one on Dec 24th.

- 1066 Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*  
 Status: abundant resident.
- This diminutive, but noisy, bird continues to maintain a healthy population in a variety of habitats wherever there is sufficient low cover. BBS data suggests that it has increased in the London area since 1994, though with a slight decline since 2005. Local patch surveys and note-taking are the best ways for birders to substantiate or refute this trend.
- The highest counts of singing males/territories (nos. in brackets) at sites where ten or more were found (five or more within the built up area) are given, followed by some of the higher counts and other records of interest. No records were received from Inner London, and surprisingly few from many of the suburbs, where the species is undoubtedly widespread, eg Wrens were reported from 28% of gardens and 49% of local parks in a survey around Croydon (RSPB Croydon Group).
- Essex Belhus Woods CP (10). Highams Park Lake, 22 on Feb 24th. Mar Dyke Valley (11). West Ham Park, nine on June 14th.
- Herts Amwell GP (25). Northaw Great Wood, 40 incl recently fledged young on June 21st. Rye Meads (71). Hilfield Park Res, a nest in a bird hide.
- Middx Alexandra Park, bred. Brent Res, one roosting in a hide on July 23rd. The Paddock LNR (6). Rammey Marsh (13). Tottenham Marsh (25).
- Kent Joyden's Wood (14). Sevenoaks WR (36). Sutton at Hone (23).
- Surrey Beddington SF (25), 47 on Oct 1st. Kingston Cemetery (9). London Wetland Centre (33), 61 on Apr 23rd. Molesey Heath (17). West End Common (10). Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath, abundant.
- 1084 Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*  
 Status: abundant resident.
- Gardens, woodland edges, scrub and hedgerows all provide suitable habitat for the Dunnock, which can be found throughout the London Area. The species' adaptability in a suburban fringe of changing habitats is a major reason for its success. BBS data shows that the London population, though fluctuating a little, is relatively stable. It was recorded in 92% of gardens and 81% of parks in a survey in Croydon (RSPB Croydon group).
- The records below give the highest counts of singing males/territories (figs in brackets) at sites where five or more were found (three or more within the built-up area), together with some of the higher counts.
- Essex Belhus Woods CP (8). Highams Park (6). Lion Gorge, (5). Orsett (16). Warren Gorge (5). West Ham Park, three on July 13th.
- Herts Amwell GP (10). Rye Meads (38).
- Middx Rammey Marsh (12). Tottenham Marsh (12). Brent Res, 39 on Mar 8th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR (9). Sutton at Hone (14), 21 on Nov 6th.
- Surrey Beddington SF (21). Hook allotments (10). London Wetland Centre (7). Molesey Heath (12). Richmond Park (19). Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (8). Holmethorpe SP, 34 on Apr 4th.
- In Lond Hyde Park & Kensington Gdns, three on Jan 2nd.

- 1099 Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*  
 Status: abundant resident with influxes in autumn and winter.
- Britain's most illustrated bird, the Robin is widespread in parks, gardens, scrub and woodland. BBS figures suggest it has increased slightly in the London area in recent years. Evidence of autumn influxes was perhaps less marked than in 2007, though there were counts of 55 at Sevenoaks WR, 39 at Sutton at Hone and 52 at Beddington SF in Sept-Oct.
- The notes below summarise records from some of the sites with larger numbers (figs in brackets are nos. of singing males/territories).
- Essex Belhus Woods CP (20). Broadfields Farm (12). Grays Chalk Pits (14). Highams Park Lake (13). Lion Gorge (12). Mar Dyke Valley, Davy Down (20). Warren Gorge (15). West Ham Park, 8-10 in May-June. Chingford, Larks Wood, 16 on May 5th.
- Herts Northaw Great Wood, 33 incl recently fledged young on June 21st. Rye Meads (34).
- Midx The Paddock LNR, Tottenham (8). Tottenham Marsh (11).
- Bucks Arthur Jacob NR (15).
- Kent Chipstead Lake (22). Cudham (12). Dryhill (10). Joyden's Wood (23). Sevenoaks WR (30), 55 on Oct 11th. Sutton at Hone (20).
- Surrey Arbrook Common (12). Barwell Court Farm (31). Beddington SF (45). Ham Lands (10). Molesey Heath (14). West End Common (27). Beverley Park, six on Feb 10th. Croydon, found in 99% of back gardens (RSPB Croydon Group). Fishponds Wood LNR, eight on May 23rd. Kingston Cemetery, nine on June 13th. London Wetland Centre, 35 on Apr 9th.
- 1104 Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos*  
 Status: breeding summer visitor in small numbers, scarce passage migrant.
- Reports of this melodious songster came from 23 sites, though this would include some passage birds (17 sites in 2007). The first bird was heard on Apr 13th at East India Dock Basin, with two at Fishers Green Island the following day. The only autumn record was one at Rainham Marshes on Aug 30th.
- A total of c. 25-28 territories appear to have been established (27 in 2007). Fishers Green Island in the Lea Valley remains a stronghold, but the species is increasing its presence in adjacent gravel pits on the Herts/Essex border. None of the records refers to young seen, though a nest was built at Brent Res and birds were seen or heard throughout May in Epping Forest and from mid-April to early June at Fishers Green.
- A summary of singing males/territories (nos. in brackets) and passage birds is given.
- Essex Chigwell, singing male on May 19th. Chingford Plain (1). Cornmill Meadows (1). Epping Forest: Green Ride, one on May 15th; Trueloves (1); Lippits Hill (1) (possibly same bird). Fishers Green Island (12) (SmT, SmA). Ingrebourne Valley (2). Ilford, one on Apr 16th. Nazeing GP, three on Apr 27th; one on June 6th. Rainham Marshes, one on Aug 30th.

- Herts North Met. Pit (2). Birds heard at other Cheshunt GPs may well be those nesting here or at Fishers Green Island. Monks Green, one on May 31st.
- Midx Brent Res (1), pair built nest but no young seen. Singing males at East India Dock Basin/Lea Mouth on Apr 13th and Hackney Marsh on Apr 20th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, singing male on May 24th.
- Surrey Bookham Common (5). Prince's Coverts (1). Chessington, junction of Cox Lane and Jubilee Way, singing male on May 11th.
- In Lond Surrey Quays, nr Canada Water tube, singing male on June 15th.

**1121 Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros***

Status: breeding summer visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers.

Much-celebrated by urban naturalists, this species was recorded at 29 sites in 2008, an increase on 20 in 2007 and 17 in 2006, and with winter records from five sites, as in 2007. Breeding was confirmed at three sites: on June 1st, during field work for the new Atlas survey, an occupied nest was discovered at Silvertown in east London; on July 8th, fledglings were seen in Argyle St, near Kings Cross Station, and on July 14th a female was seen feeding a juvenile in Watford town centre.

- Essex Barking Bay, one on Oct 8th. Rainham Marshes, male and fem from Jan-late Apr, one on Oct 5th & 29th. Redbridge, a fem on Apr 19th. Silvertown (1) nest found on June 1st. Thames Chase, 1st-year male on Mar 29th. Walthamstow FB, a fem on Apr 3rd. Walthamstow Res, a male on Apr 10th and May 6th.
- Herts Tyttenhanger GP, one on Apr 16th. Watford (1), bred, a juv at Lairage Land on June 28th, and a female seen feeding a juv in the town centre on July 14th. Woodoaks Farm, 1st-winter male on Oct 13th-16th.
- Midx Brent Res, a singing male on Apr 28th. East India Dock Basin, a singing male on Apr 12th, joined by a fem in early May; one on Sept 11th; a fem on Nov 28th; one on Dec 3rd & 5th. West Hampstead, one on Apr 10th.
- Bucks Q. Mother Res, a male on Nov 6th.
- Kent Crossness LNR, one on Dec 6th.
- Surrey Balham, a male on Apr 21st. Beddington SF, a male on Apr 5th. Chelsham Court Farm, a fem on Apr 26th. Croydon, a singing male on three dates in May and June 6th. Croydon College, a singing male on Apr 21st. Holmethorpe SP, a fem on Apr 14th-16th. Kew, three on the roof of The Ship PH on Aug 30th. Kingston, one on Feb 1st & 8th. New Addington, one on June 10th. QEII Res, one on Mar 15th.
- In Lond Argyle St, WC1, fledglings on July 8th. Camley St, one on June 14th. Guildhall, singing male on July 14th. Tower of London, one on June 2nd.

**1122 Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus***

Status: uncommon passage migrant and former breeder.

A Redstart sighting always quickens the pulse, and this year's total of 15 records in spring was twice as many as 2007 (seven spring records). A healthy autumn passage involved about 77 birds (33 in 2007); a third

of these were found at two Middx sites by one diligent observer with the time to make regular patch visits. The first sightings were on April 5th at Beddington SF and Sewardstone Marsh, and the peak spring passage was from Apr 6th-9th and 15th-18th. Although there were two July records, the main autumn migration really commenced in the second week of August and the last bird was at Rainham Marshes on Oct 12th.

- Essex Bedfords Park, one on Sept 7th & 9th. Dagenham Chase, one on Aug 22nd, two on 26th, one on 28th & 29th. Fairlop Waters, male on Apr 6th and two on 7th; one on Sept 15th. Leyton Flats, one on Sept 22nd. Ongar Park Wood, singing male on May 5th. Rainham Marshes, a male on Apr 9th; one on four dates in Aug then Sept 9th & 27th. Romford, one on Aug 28th. Sewardstone Marsh, a male on Apr 5th. Waltham Abbey, a fem on Apr 26th. Walthamstow Res, a male on Apr 9th. Wanstead Flats, two on Sept 1st. S. Weald Cricket Club, one on Aug 21st.
- Herts Beech Farm GP, a male on Aug 24th; male and fem on Sept 12th. Croxley Common Moor, a male on Apr 15th, one on May 16th. N. Mymms Park, fem/imm on Sept 20th. Tyttenhanger GP, fem on Apr 17th and Oct 3rd.
- Middx Abney Park Cemetery, one on Sept 3rd. Alexandra Park, one on Sept 1st, 7th & 8th. Brent Res, one on Sept 14th. Brunel University, a male on July 22nd-23rd. Lake Farm CP, one on Aug 8th, two males on Sept 14th. Stanwell Moor, one on Aug 30th. Totteridge Valley, a fem on Sept 8th. Trent Park, seen on 12 dates from Aug 22nd-Sept 9th, at least five birds involved, incl two fem/imm, two adult males and one 1st-winter male. Vicarage Farm, seen on 18 dates between Aug 23rd-Sept 18th, at least three birds involved, incl an adult, a 1st-winter male and a fem/imm.
- Bucks Colnbrook, a fem on Sept 4th. Wraysbury GP, juv trapped on July 7th, male on Sept 26th.
- Kent Crossness LNR, male on Aug 23rd; 1st-winter male on Oct 4th. Sevenoaks WR, one on July 8th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, male on Apr 5th. Farthing Downs, one (no date). Holmethorpe SP, fem on Sept 28th-29th. London Wetland Centre, male on Apr 18th, fem on 25th; 1st-winter male on Sept 18th, fem on 19th & 26th-27th. Richmond Park, a male on Apr 16th and Aug 16th; fem on Sept 16th, 19th & 20th. S. Croydon, one in last week of Sept.

1137

**Whinchat***Saxicola rubetra*

Status: regular passage migrant and former breeding summer visitor.

A male Whinchat in bright breeding plumage is invariably a birding highlight, but there was a further decline in spring sightings this year, with just around 32 records, depending on how many were seen twice (cf 49 in 2007, 64 in 2006). In contrast, autumn passage was better than last year, with 412 sightings (261 in 2007). The first bird of the spring was at London Wetland Centre on Apr 20th and the last of autumn at Rainham Marshes on Oct 18th. Spring passage peaked in the last week of April and first week of May, with the autumn peak in the second and fourth weeks of September. All the spring records were singles, but



c.25% of those in autumn were groups of two or more, with 11 at Rainham on Sept 10th the highest count.

Some notable sightings within the built-up area included: Alexandra Park one on May 8th and three on Aug 28th; Brent Res, one on Aug 30th; Crossness, three on Aug 26th; Regent's Park, one on Apr 22nd and 29th; and Tottenham Marsh, one on Aug 20th and 22nd with two on Sept 13th.

**1139 European Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*

Status: localised breeding resident, regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

Nine or ten pairs bred at seven sites in 2008, with six additional pairs present during the breeding season (cf 11 pairs at six sites in 2005 and 2007, though just six pairs at two sites in 2006). So it appears that this spruce chat is at least maintaining its range in the LNHS area. Richmond Park, with four pairs, held the largest breeding population. It also had the highest autumn count, 40 birds on Oct 6th, with 38 at Rainham Marshes on Nov 12th in second place. All breeding records (no. of pairs in brackets) followed by some of the highest counts are given below.

- Essex Rainham Marshes (1), plus another pair present in the breeding season; 38 on Nov 12th. West Thurrock Marshes (1). Bedfords Park, seven on Sept 29th. Fairlop Waters, five on Oct 18th. Sewardstone, Netherhouse Farm, five on Sept 26th. Walthamstow Res, three on Feb 24th.
- Herts Beech Farm GP (1), eight on Oct 8th. Amwell GP, four on Feb 17th. Merry Hill, five on Mar 23rd. Rye Meads, four on Jan 11th and Mar 8th.
- Middx Bushy Park (1) with another pair present in the breeding season; 12 on Feb 18th. Harlington Fields, three on Oct 14th. Lake Farm CP, six on Oct 3rd. Minet CP, six on Oct 6th. Parkside Farm, three on Oct 11th. Staines Moor, 14 on Oct 8th. Hayes, six overwintered. Tottenham Marsh, six overwintered. Vicarage Farm, three on Oct 7th-8th & 14th.
- Bucks Colnbrook, nine on Oct 2nd. Wraysbury GP, six on Oct 3rd.
- Kent Crayford Marshes, juv on June 18th, presumably bred locally. Crossness LNR (1); peaks of five on Feb 24th, May 27th and Oct 17th. Swanscombe Marsh, two pairs present in the breeding season; 13 on Oct 18th.
- Surrey Richmond Park (4); 40 on Oct 6th. Beddington SF, four on Nov 16th. London Wetland Centre, seven on Feb 24th and Sept 30th. New Addington, four on Dec 27th. S. Norwood CP, six on Mar 13th. Walton Res, three on Oct 13th. Woldingham, five on Oct 9th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, one on Mar 11th-14th.

**1146 Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Status: common passage migrant and very occasional breeding visitor.

For many, the arrival of the colourful Wheatear symbolises the start of spring migration. The first this year was at Mayesbrook Park on Mar 11th, with a wider arrival following on Mar 15th. The highest count was

12 at Rainham Marshes on Apr 30th, though, worryingly, this was the only count of ten or more in spring (six counts were over ten in 2007 and 11 in 2006). The vast majority of records comprised only ones and twos. There was no obvious spring peak. Late spring females were spotted at Maple Lodge NR and Woodoaks Farm on June 3rd and at Lake Farm CP on June 19th.

Return passage began on July 27th, with one at Tyttenhanger GP, peaking in the last week of August, with a second wave at the end of September. The last of the year was at Walthamstow Res on the late date of Nov 19th.

Some of the higher counts and a summary of all records for inner city localities are given.

- Essex Dagenham Chase, three on Apr 21st. Fairlop Waters, three on Apr 24th. KGV Res, seven on Mar 17th. Ingrebourne Valley, three on Mar 30th. Mayesbrook Park, one on Mar 8th and Sept 11th. Rainham Marshes, 12 on Apr 30th. Wanstead Flats, two on Sept 2nd.
- Herts Cole Green Tip, three on Mar 29th. Newgate Street, three on Sept 20th. Redwell Wood Farm, three on Aug 29th.
- Middx Alexandra Park, one on four dates in spring and eight dates in autumn. Brent Res, 1-2 on four dates in spring and three dates in autumn. East India Dock Basin, one on Aug 20th & 24th and Sept 7th. KGVI Res, four on Aug 30th. Minet CP, five on Sept 2nd. Q. Mary Res, ten on Sept 14th. Staines Moor, four on Mar 16th, six on Apr 22nd.
- Bucks Q. Mother Res, four on Apr 27th, Aug 13th, Sept 18th, 22nd, 28th & 29th.
- Kent Blackheath, one on Sept 24th-25th. Crossness LNR, max of three on Apr 20th, May 4th and Sept 26th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, six on Apr 5th. Epsom Downs, five on Aug 31st. London Wetland Centre, seven on Apr 16th. QEII Res, seven on Sept 4th. Richmond Park, seven on Apr 16th. Walton Res, four on Mar 25th. Wandsworth Common, one on Aug 25th. Woldingham, six on Apr 23rd.
- In Lond Regent's Park, one on Apr 26th and four further spring dates; one on Aug 26th and four further autumn dates; two on Sept 25th.

#### **Greenland Wheatear:**

27 records were considered by their observers to show characteristics of the race *leucorrhoa* (40 in 2007, 18 in 2006).

- Essex Fairlop Waters, one on May 5th. KGV Res, one on Aug 19th. Rainham Marshes, five on Apr 29th; two on May 6th.
- Herts Hertford Heath, an injured bird on Aug 24th, taken to the RSPB. Wildhill, one on Apr 28th.
- Middx Alexandra Park, one on May 4th-5th. KGVI Res, one on Sept 14th. South Lodge Farm, one on Sept 3rd.
- Bucks Q. Mother Res, four on Aug 28th. Colnbrook, two on Sept 8th.
- Kent Crossness LNR, one on May 27th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, a female on May 25th-27th. London Wetland Centre, one on Apr 21st and two on 29th. Richmond Park, one on May 4th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, one on Apr 27th-28th.

**1186 Ring Ouzel***Turdus torquatus*

Status: regular passage migrant, but never common.

This wary and beautiful thrush is always a prized find during migration, and this year provided a reasonable spring showing with 44 birds (47 in 2007), but just 11 autumn records (13 in 2007). The first one was at Regent's Park on Mar 26th, and the next, at the same site, was not until Apr 16th. Spring passage peaked from Apr 19th-22nd, with 15 birds reported on the 21st. The first autumn birds were two on July 16th at London Wetland Centre, where the last bird of the year was also seen on Nov 4th.



JPPW

- Essex Fairlop Waters, one on Apr 17th. Rainham Marshes, a fem on Apr 20th, a male on Apr 24th and also on Sept 29th, one on Oct 8th and a fem on Nov 3rd. Wanstead Flats, a male on Oct 3rd.
- Herts Beech Farm GP/Hatfield Aerodrome, a male on Apr 20th. Cole Green Tip, one on Apr 20th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Apr 21st, 22nd & 23rd.
- Middx Alexandra Park, a fem on Apr 22nd. Staines Moor, a fem on Apr 16th, a male on 20th-23rd. Stoke Newington Res, one on Oct 30th. Tower Hamlets Cemetery, a male on Apr 20th. Vicarage Farm, a fem on Apr 28th.
- Kent Crossness LNR, a male on Apr 22nd.
- Surrey Beddington SF, a male on Apr 19th-20th & 22nd; a 1st-winter fem on Sept 29th. Broombank, one on Apr 21st. Canon's Farm, a fem on Apr 27th. Coulsdon, a male and fem on Apr 20th. Holmethorpe SP, one on Apr 27th. London Wetland Centre, a fem on Apr 22nd, two on July 16th and a 1st-winter male on Sept 19th. Nore Hill, six on Apr 21st. Richmond Park, a male on Apr 19th, two males on 21st-22nd, a fem on 29th, a male and a fem on Apr 30th-May 1st, a fem on May 2nd. S. Norwood CP, one on May 20th. Woldingham, three on Apr 21st.
- In Lond Regent's Park, one on Mar 26th, Apr 16th & 26th, May 5th and Oct 10th.

**2007, Additional record:**

- Middx Ring Ouzel, one at Vicarage Farm on Apr 28th.

**1187 Blackbird***Turdus merula*

Status: abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Considered by some to sing more sweetly than the Nightingale, the Blackbird is one of our commonest birds from the city centre to the rural fringe, with continental influxes in autumn and winter. However, numbers

in the London region have fallen significantly in recent years - by 26% since 1994 according to the BBS - which goes against a national trend of a 24% increase over the same period.

The notes below give breeding information where significant numbers were recorded (no. of singing males or pairs in brackets). However, remarkably few breeding season counts were received, with none at all from Inner London. More breeding records are needed, especially from the built-up area, to help track the fortune of one of the capital's most characteristic birds. Some of the highest wintering and passage counts are also listed.

- Essex Bulphan Fen, 30 on Nov 9th. Highams Park, Coolgardie Ave to Highams Park Stn (4). Mar Dyke Valley, 30 on Nov 17th. Rainham Marshes, 40 on Dec 12th. West Ham Park, 52 on Feb 28th; highest breeding season count, 38 on May 17th.
- Herts Northaw Great Wood, bred; 25 on May 12th. Rye Meads (15), 30 on Feb 2nd and Nov 8th.
- Middx Lake Farm CP, 27 on Oct 26th. Rammey Marsh (10). Tottenham Marsh (9).
- Bucks Langley, 20 on Dec 5th.
- Kent Bayley's Hill, 20 on Nov 13th. Chipstead Lake, 23 on Mar 14th. Sevenoaks WR, 37 on Dec 24th. Sutton at Hone, 51 on Nov 6th.
- Surrey Arbrook (12). Beddington SF (28), 57 on Dec 1st. Bookham Common, 22 on Dec 9th. Croydon, found in 100% of gardens (RSPB Croydon group). Esher: West End Common (16); The Ledges (10). Holmethorpe SP, 45 on Nov 2nd. Kingston Cemetery (10). London Wetland Centre, 90 on Oct 26th.

1198

**Fieldfare***Turdus pilaris*

Status: regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

Winter and migratory counts of this noisy thrush were higher than in 2007, with 20 flocks of 200+, including 15 counts of 100+ in March alone. The last of the first winter period were singles at Vicarage Farm and Rainham Marshes on Apr 26th; the first in autumn were two at Mar Dyke Valley on Sept 22nd. The autumn peak came on Oct 18th, with a total of c.2,000 seen in the LNHS Area (850+ over the London Wetland Centre alone) and mainly seen (and heard) flying overhead in a W, NW or SW direction.

The notes below list peak counts of 150 or more, with lower counts included for sites within the London Boroughs and closer to the city centre.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP, 357 on Jan 10th. Fairlop Waters, 200 on Mar 9th. Havering, 200 on Feb 21st. Holyfield Hall Farm, 200 on Dec 7th. Orsett, 380 on Jan 3rd. South Weald, 150 on Jan 29th. Walthamstow Marsh, 52 on Feb 26th. Walthamstow Res, max of 28 on Feb 24th.
- Herts Bayfordbury, 250 on Jan 2nd. Beech Farm GP, 200 on Jan 1st. Cole Green Tip, 160 on Apr 9th. Hilfield Farm, 200 on Jan 20th. London Colney, 150 on Jan 12th. Lynster's Farm, 250 on Jan 7th. Rye Meads, 169 on Oct 18th. Smallford, 150 on Jan 1st. St Albans, 200 on Feb 29th.
- Middx Alexandra Park, 82 on Oct 18th. Brent Res, 61 on Mar 6th; 86 on Nov 1st. Bushy Park, 100 on Oct 18th. Enfield Chase, 120 on Dec 16th. Ferny Hill Farm, Enfield, 88 on Dec 20th. Ten Acre Wood, 100 on Oct 18th.

- Bucks Q. Mother Res, 220 on Nov 1st.  
 Kent Dartford Marshes, 125 on Jan 16th. R. Darent, 150 on Feb 23rd.  
 Surrey Beddington SF, 242 on Oct 29th. Canon's Farm, 400 on Mar 24th. Clapham Common, one on Apr 9th. Holmethorpe SP, 215 on Jan 29th. London Wetland Centre, 850+ on Oct 18th. Richmond Park, 500+ on Oct 18th. S. Norwood CP, 100 on Mar 22nd. Wandsworth Common, 15 flew over on Oct 29th; four on Nov 20th.  
 In Lond Kensington Gdns, one on Feb 1st (McDT). Regent's Park, 36 on Nov 12th.

**1200 Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*  
 Status: common, but locally declining, breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

This well-loved songster has become less common in recent years, especially in the central area. The BBS records a decline of 31% in London since 1994, contrary to a 27% increase nationally. However, a minimum of 366 territories/singing males was reported this year, which is slightly up on 353 territories in 2007. More breeding records, especially for urban areas, would be welcome.

Records from the sites with the largest number of territories are given below (no. of singing males/territories in brackets), together with high counts and evidence of migration, with some emphasis on sites within the London boroughs.

- Essex At least 69 territories from 39 sites. Bedfords Park (6). Belhus Woods CP (6). Great Warley (5). Havering (10). Highams Park Lake (8). Mar Dyke Valley (4). Rainham Marshes (4), 21 on Dec 3rd. W. Thurrock Marshes (10). Wanstead Park, four on Apr 15th, three on July 1st. Wanstead Flats, four on Apr 15th-16th. West Ham Park, two on Feb 13th, one on Sept 23rd and Oct 12th.  
 Herts At least 58 territories from at least 31 sites. Balls Wood (3). Cheshunt (4). Merry Hill (c.6). Millwards Park (6). Northaw Great Wood (10). Rye Meads (14). Smallford (5). Bury Lake, seven on Feb 10th. Chess Valley, seven on Jan 20th and June 1st. S. Mimms, nine on May 9th.  
 Middx At least 50 territories from 27 sites. Abney Park Cemetery (4). Alexandra Park, bred. East India Dock Basin NR, two on Apr 16th-18th. Grovelands Park (2). Oakwood Park (2), bred. Pymmes Park (1). Rammey Marsh (9). Stoke Newington Res (1), bred. Tottenham Marsh (7), nine on Jan 26th. Trent Park (4).  
 Bucks Arthur Jacob NR (4).  
 Kent At least 22 territories in six sites. Chipstead Lake (5). Sevenoaks WR (7).  
 Surrey At least 143 territories from 60 sites. Beddington SF (9), 22 on Feb 1st, 39 on Dec 1st. Bookham Common (11). Ham Lands (9). Holmethorpe SP (1); 20 on Sept 27th. Horton SP (7). London Wetland Centre (1), juv seen on June 20th; autumn fly-overs include 25 on Sept 19th, 26 on Oct 26th and 40 on Nov 6th. Prince's Coverts (12). Richmond Park (14).  
 In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, four on Jan 1st, one singing. Regent's Park (14); 50 flew over on Sept 25th.

- 1201 Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*  
 Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor.
- Good numbers of this attractive winter-visiting thrush were seen in 2008, with 19 counts of 100+ in Jan-Mar (15 in 2007) and higher peak autumn counts than last year. By April, numbers were much reduced, with just 19 records involving 28 birds. The last bird of the spring was at Richmond Park on the late date of May 24th. The first to return were two at S. Norwood CP on Sept 16th. Autumn passage peaked on Oct 18th, with a total of at least 3,140 birds seen, followed by a second peak of 2,259 on Oct 31st, including a visible migration of 1,090 over Leyton Flats (the highest count for the year).
- Peak counts for individual sites of 100 or more (20+ within the London boroughs) and all Inner London records are given. Note that many of the higher counts relate to birds flying overhead.
- Essex Bedfords Park, 128 on Feb 23rd. Belhus Woods CP, 153 on Feb 10th. Brentwood, 100 on Feb 4th. Bulphan Fen, 300 on Nov 12th. Fairlop Waters, 80 on Oct 18th. Fishers Green Island, 127 on Oct 18th. Hainault Forest, 100 on Mar 24th. Hayes Hill Farm, 150 on Feb 20th. Leyton Flats, 1,090 on Oct 31st. Mayesbrook Park, 110 on Oct 19th. Rainham Marshes, 120 on Oct 26th. Raphael Park, 41 on Feb 14th. Sewardstone, Carrolls Farm, 200 on Oct 13th.
- Herts Brickendonbury, 100 on Jan 28th. Cheshunt GP, 100 on Nov 1st. Cole Green Tip, 100 on Oct 18th. Garston, 550 on Oct 18th. Lynster's Farm, 250 on Jan 7th. Rye Meads, 582 on Oct 18th. St Albans, 100 on Feb 22nd & 29th. Welham Green, 200 on Feb 14th.
- Middx Alexandra Park, 180 on Oct 31st. Brent Res, 137 on Nov 1st. Bushy Park, 70 on Mar 25th. Clissold Park, 268 on Oct 31st. Holloway, 20 on lawn by Camden Rd flats on Feb 16th. Kempton Park NR, 50 on Oct 18th. Oakwood Park, 130 on Jan 20th. South Lodge Farm, 100 on Jan 4th. Stoke Newington Res, 530 on Oct 30th. Tottenham Marsh, 179 on Oct 18th. Totteridge Valley, 110 on Oct 19th.
- Kent Crossness, 75 on Oct 30th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 672 on Oct 19th. Canon's Farm, 250 on Jan 13th. Chessington, 111 on Feb 23rd. Croydon, 150 on Nov 1st. Holmethorpe SP, 477 on Oct 19th. Kew Gdns, 40 on Mar 1st. London Wetland Centre, 565 on Oct 18th. QEII Res, 233 on Oct 18th. Richmond Park, 630 on Oct 19th. Shirley Park, 150 flying over on Nov 1st.
- In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, two on Jan 1st. Regent's Park, 25 o/h on Mar 9th, 300 on 19th; 10 o/h on Sept 25th. Victoria, three o/h on Oct 16th.

- 1202 Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*  
 Status: common breeding resident.

The distinctive song of this large thrush can be heard across much of the capital and the surrounding countryside, where tall trees and open grassland offer suitable habitat. This year's total of c.148 territories from 68 sites, is slightly fewer than last year (180 territories from 90 sites). The species has suffered a 13% decline across the UK since 1994, though the



BBS has insufficient local data to determine a London trend. As last year, there was possible evidence of autumn influxes and migration.

The notes below summarise breeding records, with nos. of singing males, pairs or nests in brackets, from sites where three or more pairs were found (two or more within the London boroughs). This is followed by other high counts (ten or more birds), and all records for Inner London.

- Essex Bedfords Park (4). Havering CP (3). West Ham Park, ten on Feb 17th, nine on July 13th. Dagenham Chase, 15 on July 8th. Highams Park Lake, seven incl juv on July 13th. Fishers Green Island, ten on Sept 13th. Orsett, ten on Dec 18th. Rainham Marshes, 11 on Sept 6th.
- Herts Garston (11). Bricket Wood Common, 11 on Aug 3rd. Cassiobury Park, 19 on Oct 3rd. Elstree, 19 on Oct 23rd. Howe Green, 12 on July 15th. Maple Lodge NR, 25 flew over on July 12th. Sopwell Mill, 11 on July 13th. Tyttenhanger GP, 30 on Sept 10th. Verulamium Lake, 11 on July 2nd.
- Middx Alexandra Park (4), 21 on Sept 6th. Brent Res (2). Oakwood Park, 21 on July 15th. Parkside Farm, 41 on July 7th. Vicarage Farm, 15 on Sept 16th.
- Kent Greenwich Park (4), 30 on Aug 22nd. Crossness LNR, 15 on Sept 27th. Littlebrook, 15 on July 6th. Sevenoaks WR, 11 on July 23rd.
- Surrey Kew Gardens (3). Lloyd Park, Croydon, family of five on June 19th. London Wetland Centre, bred nearby, 20 o/h on Sept 22nd and Oct 4th. Richmond Park (6). Wandsworth Common (1+) bred, 12 on July 22nd. Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (20). Croydon, noted in 29% of gardens (RSPB Croydon Group). New Malden, Kings College Sports Ground, 25 on Feb 23rd. Tooting Common, six on Sept 28th.
- In Lond Archbishop's Park, one on May 11th. Hyde Park & Kensington Gdns, four singing on Jan 1st. Lambeth, one on Feb 20th. Larkhall Park, Clapham (2) two pairs bred successfully, one raising two broods.

## 1220 Cetti's Warbler

*Cettia cetti*

Status: scarce migrant and winter visitor, but increasing breeder.

A similar picture emerged this year to 2007, with the majority of the records again coming from the Essex and Herts sectors, notably wetland sites along the Lea and Ingrebourne Valleys. Most of the records are of the distinctive sharp metallic song, but breeding was confirmed at two sites: Cornmill Meadows and Rye Meads (where another interesting observation was a polygamous trio). Isolated records in Sept-Oct, eg at Corbets Tey, Fairlop and Connaught Waters, may represent autumn dispersal. A summary of all records is given (nos. of singing males/pairs in brackets).

- Essex Belhus Woods CP, two on Oct 19th. Corbets Tey, one on Oct 11th. Cornmill Meadows (1), brood noted on June 19th. Dagenham Chase (1). Epping Forest, Connaught Water, one on Sept 8th. Fairlop Waters, one on Oct 15th. Fishers Green Island, one on May 20th and Oct 8th. Hall Marsh, one on Mar 15th & 23rd. Holyfield Lake, two on May 27th. Hornchurch CP (2). Ingrebourne Valley, present all year, (8) singing on Apr 24th, max 15 on Apr 8th. Rainham Marshes NR, up to eight; present all year. Warren Gorge (1). Mar Dyke Valley, one in Jan-Mar and 1-2 in Sept-Dec.

- Herts Amwell GP (4). Cheshunt GP (5). Rye Meads (3) present all year. Seventy Acres Lake, up to five; present all year. Stanstead Abbots GP (1). Bowyers Water GP, 1-2 in Aug to Nov.
- Middx Brent Res, one from Oct 18th-Nov 16th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, one trapped in Sept.
- Kent Greenhithe (4). Swanscombe (9).
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, one in Jan-Mar.

**1236 Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

Status: scarce passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

A similar number of reeling birds was heard as in 2007, some of which may be passage migrants, rather than actually holding territory. Nevertheless, at least two pairs bred, one each at Epping Forest and Rye Meads. Numbers of reeling males are listed below (nos. in brackets) together with a summary of all other records. The first bird of the year was heard at the London Wetland Centre on Apr 16th, and the last in Trent Park on Oct 25th.

- Essex Brentwood (1). Epping Forest, Lippitts Hill (3). Pages Wood (1). Rainham Marshes NR, 1-2 from April to Aug. Tylers Common, one on April 27th.
- Herts Amwell GP (1); three on Apr 25th-26th. Beech Farm GP (1). Carpenders Park, one in June and July. Hertford Heath (1). Hilfield Farm (1) in July. Rye Meads (1). Stanstead Abbots (1). Maple Lodge NR (1).
- Kent Dartford Marshes, one in Apr-May. Littlebrook (1).
- Middx Trent Park, one on Sept 25th. Vicarage Farm, one in Aug.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP (1).
- Surrey London Wetland Centre (1). Richmond Park (1).

**1242 Aquatic Warbler** *Acrocephalus paludicola*

Status: rare autumn passage migrant.

Small numbers of this globally-threatened species are recorded each year in southern Britain, usually in August or September. The Rainham Marshes bird is the first published record in the *LBR* for many years. The bird was very elusive and seen by few observers.

- Essex Rainham Marshes, one from Sept 3rd-8th (SmD, BoL).

**1243 Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Status: common and widespread migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The majority of records are from the Herts, Essex and Middx sectors, though the Thames marshes in the Kent sector were perhaps under-recorded this year. The first bird of the year was at Amwell GP on April 2nd and the last at Rainham on October 4th. In the notes below, the numbers of singing males are given in brackets, followed by other records. Where singing males were heard on only one occasion, the

date is given to distinguish these from birds that were reported over a longer period.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows (6). Walthamstow Res (6). Wm Girling Res (1). Bedfords Park, one in Sept. Belhus Woods CP, one in July. Dagenham Chase, one on April 13th. Ingrebourne Valley, up to five. Mar Dyke Valley, two on June 4th. Rainham Marshes, up to ten. Sewardstone Marsh, one on Aug 30th. Walthamstow Marsh, two on May 1st.
- Herts Amwell (24). Beech Farm GP (2). Hampermill (1). Rickmansworth (1) on June 2nd. Rye Meads (60). Shenley (1) on May 6th. Stocker's Lake (6) on May 18th, 1-2 on other dates in Apr-May. Troy Mill (2+). Tyttenhanger GP (2). Croxley Moor, 1-2 in Apr and May. Hilfield Park Res, two on Aug 4th. Stanborough Lakes, two on May 9th.
- Middx Springwell Reedbed (3+). Staines Moor (1). Stoke Newington Res (1). Tottenham Marsh (8), ten on May 5th. Alexandra Park, one on April 23rd. Brent Res (6) on Apr 26th. East India Dock Basin, one on Aug 20th. Frays Meadows, one on July 16th. Staines Res, one on Aug 7th. Vicarage Farm, one in Aug-Sept.
- Bucks Horton GP (1). Thorney CP (2). Arthur Jacob NR, two on May 15th.
- Kent Crossness LNR (2). Crystal Palace Park, one on April 16th. Sevenoaks WR, two on April 14th.
- Surrey Beddington SF (3). Molesey Heath (3). Holmethorpe SP, 1-2 in Apr-May. London Wetland Centre, up to 16. Richmond Park, two on Sept 22nd.
- In Lond Regent's Park, singles on Apr 20th and May 5th.

**1250 Marsh Warbler** *Acrocephalus palustris*  
Status: rare summer visitor and passage migrant.

Following only single records in 1998, 1999 and 2000, this species bred at the London Wetland Centre in 2001 and sites in Essex in 2001 and 2002. There were no further records until 2007, so it is good to record one this year.

- Essex Rainham Marshes, one on Sept 14th (SmJ).

**1251 Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*  
Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The highest count this year came from Rye Meads, with 123 singing males in June, but counts of 40 or more were recorded at Swanscombe Marsh, Amwell GP and Walthamstow Res, and 36 in the most urban locality of East India Dock Basin/Bow Creek. The first bird of the year was at Richmond Park on Apr 1st and the last at the London Wetland Centre on the very late date of Nov 20th.

The notes below give nos. of breeding pairs for sites with five or more pairs (nos. of singing males/territories shown in brackets); all possible breeding records are included for sites within the London boroughs.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP (7). Warren Gorge (14). Dagenham Chase (14). Walthamstow Res (20). Ingrebourne Valley, 4-8 in May-June. Mar Dyke Valley, 4-9 in May-July. Rainham Marshes NR, up to 30 from Apr-Sept.
- Herts Amwell GP (44). Croxley Moor, up to ten from Apr-June. Rye Meads (123), singing males on June 1st. Seventy Acres GP, 17 on May 19th. Stocker's Lake, 2-5 from Apr-Aug.
- Middx East India Dock Basin/Lea Mouth (6+), but a survey of the wider area including Lea Mouth & Bow Creek Ecology Park as well as the nature reserve revealed a total of (36) on May 27th. Lake Farm CP (1) on May 31st. Springwell Reedbed (1) on May 25th. Stoke Newington Res (13) pairs bred. The Paddock LNR (1) on May 5th. Tottenham Marsh (9). Trent Park (1) on June 2nd. Alexandra Park, one on Apr 23rd. Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, one on Sept 9th.
- Bucks Thorney CP (7). Arthur Jacob NR, up to six in May-June. Horton GP, two on Sept 18th.
- Kent Crossness LNR (16). Dartford/Dartford Marshes, 20 on Apr 27th; c.20 fledglings on July 20th. Swanscombe Marsh (42). Greenwich, one on July 27th. River Darent, ten on Aug 6th.
- Surrey Beddington SF (26) singing on June 1st. London Wetland Centre, bred, up to 29 from Apr-Nov. Molesey GP (5). Hogsmill River, West Ewell (1) on May 29th. Richmond Park (4). S. Norwood CP (1). Spencer Rd Wetland (1) on June 5th. Sutton Ecology Centre (1) on June 5th. Tooting Common (1) on June 6th. Walton Res (4). Holmethorpe SP, up to ten from Apr-Aug. Jubilee Wood, one on June 27th. Wimbledon Common, one on May 7th.
- In Lond Regent's Park (8). Canada Water (2).

**1262 Dartford Warbler***Sylvia undata*

Status: rare breeding species, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

The number of sightings was similar to that for other recent years, but this year's records all refer to dates outside the breeding season (cf one location during the breeding season in 2007). Rainham Marshes and Richmond Park were the main sites for wintering birds, with regular records from October to the year end.

- Essex Ingrebourne Valley, one on several dates in Nov. Rainham Marshes, up to three from mid-Oct to mid-Nov.
- Middx Bushy Park, 1-3 from mid-Nov to mid-Dec. Hounslow Heath, one on Nov 12th. Park Farm, one on Oct 19th. Staines Moor/Stanwell Moor, one, perhaps two, seen on various dates from early Oct to early Dec.
- Kent Crossness, one on Feb 13th. Swanscombe Marsh, one on Dec 16th-24th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, one on Jan 6th and several dates from mid-Nov to mid-Dec. Hershams GP, one from Jan 20th-26th. Holmethorpe SP, one on Jan 1st & 27th. Richmond Park, 1-4 from early Oct-end Dec.

**1274 Lesser Whitethroat***Sylvia curruca*

Status: widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.



The majority of this year's records came from Essex, Herts and Surrey, with low numbers across a large number of sites. Very few records were received from Kent, except for the well-watched Crossness NR. The first bird of the year was at Grays on April 8th, and the last two at the London Wetland Centre and Park

Farm, Enfield on Sept 27th; however, a wintering bird remained at Seventy Acres Lake through most of Dec into Jan 2009.

In the notes below, the numbers of birds recorded mostly represent singing males, and, although many were probably holding breeding territory, the records are also likely to include passage migrants.

- Essex** Records were received from 25 sites. 1-2 birds were recorded on two or more dates at: Bedfords Park, Belhus Woods CP, Grays, Harold Court, Ingrebourne Valley, Mayesbrook Park, Orsett, Tylers Hall Farm, Walthamstow Res and Wanstead Flats; up to three at Page's Farm, Sewardstone Marsh and Tylers Common, up to four at Dagenham Chase and Fairlop Waters, and up to nine at Rainham Marshes.
- Herts** Recorded at 34 sites with breeding confirmed at two sites: Hilfield Park Res and Smallford. 1-2 birds were reported on two or more dates at Bedmond, Croxley Moor, Essendon, Frogmore GP, Jersey Farm, N. Mymms Park and Tyttenhanger GP, with up to three at Cole Green Tip and Panshanger and up to ten at Mill Green and Rye Meads. An over-wintering bird remained at Seventy Acres Lake from Dec 7th-Jan 2nd 2009.
- Middx** Recorded at 13 sites. 1-2 birds were found on two or more dates at East India Dock Basin, Lake Farm CP, Park Farm, Parkside Farm, Staines Moor, Trent Park and Vicarage Farm. Up to three were found at Alexandra Park and Tottenham Marsh and five at Brent Res.
- Bucks** Wraybury GP, 18 trapped in Aug-Sept.
- Kent** Crossness LNR, 1-2 from April-Sept. Dartford Marshes one on April 26th. Sevenoaks NR, two on April 21st. Swanscombe Marsh (3) singing.
- Surrey** Recorded at 23 sites. 1-2 birds were found on two or more dates at: Horton CP, Island Barn Res, Malden Rushett, Molesey Heath, Richmond Park, Riddlesdown, S. Norwood CP, Tolworth Court Farm and Tooting Common, with up to three at Beddington SF and Holmethorpe SP, four at Bookham Common and up to nine at London Wetland Centre.
- In Lond** Regent's Park, one on April 26th and four on Aug 22nd. Russia Dock Woodland, one on Sept 28th.

**1275 Common Whitethroat**

*Sylvia communis*

Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

This species appears to be maintaining its presence in the London Area, especially in more rural areas, with five sites reporting 30 or more birds. The first sighting of the year was at Tottenham Marsh on Apr 8th and the last at Rainham on Nov 17th.

Records for sites with five or more singing males/territories (two or more within the London Boroughs and all records for Inner London) are listed below, with the nos. of singing males/possible territories shown in brackets, followed by other notable counts.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP (2+), 14 on June 2nd. Dagenham Chase (14). Mar Dyke Valley, Davy Down (22). Orsett (5-8). Walthamstow Res (2); nine incl four juv on July 27th. Ingrebourne Valley, present all summer, 14 on June 1st, 15 on Aug 10th. Rainham Marshes, present all summer, 12 on July 2nd. Bedfords Park, max of nine on Apr 24th. Page's Wood, 30 on June 15th. Walthamstow Marsh, seven on May 1st.
- Herts Bedmond (7). Beech Farm GP (15). Berrybushes Wood (5). Croxley Moor (20). Potters Bar, six incl juvs on July 19th. Rye Meads (32). Wildhill (6). Broxbourne, seven on May 27th. Essendon, 19 on May 11th. Hatfield Park, seven on May 11th. Howe Green, eight on May 20th. Northaw Great Wood, 12 on May 8th. Tyttenhanger GP, 14 on Apr 26th.
- Middx Alexandra Park (5) on Apr 24th. Bushy Park (3). Enfield: Park Farm (1); Vicarage Farm (2-6). Lake Farm CP (5-6), 21 on July 23rd, young foraging on seeding hogweed. Tottenham Marsh (23). Totteridge Valley (8). Trent Park (1). Brent Res, eight on Apr 26th, seven on Aug 23rd. East India Dock Basin, five in Apr-May and Aug-Sept. Minet CP, six on Apr 28th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 84 trapped from June to Sept.
- Kent Swanscombe Marsh (23). Chipstead Lake, eight on June 30th. Crossness, recorded from Apr-June, 31 on May 4th. Dartford Marshes, ten on Aug 6th.
- Surrey Banstead Downs (12). Beddington SF (67). Bookham Common (5). Hersham GP (6). Hogsmill SF (6). Horton CP (5). Island Barn Res (3) on Apr 29th, six on July 1st. Molesey Heath (35). Prince's Coverts (1+), 12 incl juvs on June 23rd. Richmond Park (19). Tolworth Court Farm (4). Walton Res (5). Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (34). Ham Lands, five on May 23rd. Holmethorpe SP, 12 on Apr 24th.
- In Lond Regent's Park (1).

### 1276 Garden Warbler

*Sylvia borin*

Status: widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The first bird of the year was at Richmond Park on Apr 1st and the last was at Bedfords Park on Sept 29th. Only three sites - Rye Meads, Sevenoaks WR and Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath - reported ten or more birds this year, compared with six sites in 2007.

The highest counts of singing males or territories (nos. in brackets) for sites with three or more birds are set out below, together with other notable counts; within the London boroughs, all sites with singing males in the breeding season are included.

- Essex Bedfords Park (3). Chingford, Larks Wood (1).



- Herts Amwell GP (6). Rye Meads (16), 20 on Aug 2nd. Seventy Acres Lake (9). S. Mimms (3). Stocker's Lake (6) on May 18th. Troy Mill (3). Jersey Farm, five on April 23rd.
- Middx Brent Res (4) on May 3rd. Kempton (1). Enfield: Lavender Hill Cemetery (1); Park Farm (1); Parkside Farm (1). Minet CP (1) on April 28th. Staines Moor (3) on May 10th. Tottenham Marsh (2). Trent Park (3).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 36 trapped from April to Sept (15 trapped in Aug).
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, up to 15 from April to Aug. Swanscombe (2).
- Surrey Bookham Common (8). London Wetland Centre (3), 1-3 in May-June, six on Aug 12th. Molesey Heath (6). Prince's Coverts (5). Richmond Park (3). S. Norwood Lake (1). Tolworth Court Farm (1) on May 5th. Tooting Common (1). Wandsworth Common (1) on Apr 27th. Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (27).
- In Lond Regent's Park (1).

**2006, Additional record:****1273 Barred Warbler***Sylvia nisoria*

Status: rare vagrant.

London's eighth record, and the same site as one in 2003.

- Essex Sewardstone, Knights Pit, one on Sept 9th, watched for about three minutes before it flew off into dense scrub (WoR).

**1277 Blackcap***Sylvia atricapilla*

Status: common summer breeding visitor and passage migrant, increasingly common and widespread in winter.

The Blackcap remains widespread in pockets of woodland or scrub across the London Area. It was recorded in every month of the year, with over-wintering numbers apparently a little higher than last year (see table below). Counts of 20 or more birds were received from five sites, including Rye Meads, Amwell GP, Northaw Great Wood, London Wetland Centre and Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath, and a total of 348 birds were trapped at Wraysbury GP during September (RRG).

Peak counts of singing males (nos. in brackets) for sites with five or more birds (three or more within the London boroughs and all records for Inner London), are listed in the notes below, followed by other notable counts.

Blackcap, over-wintering birds	Jan	Feb	Nov	Dec
Essex	6	5	3	11
Herts	3	10	4	9-10
Middx	1	2	5	5
Bucks	1	2	-	-
Kent	2	-	-	1
Surrey	20	21	9	15
In Lond	-	1	-	-
Total	33	41	21	41-42

- Essex Belhus Woods CP (16). Dagenham Chase (14). Highams Park Lake (5). Grays Chalk Pits (5). Larks Wood, Chingford (5). Mar Dyke Valley, Davy Down (7). Walthamstow Res (4). Bedfords Park, up to 19. Havering CP, ten on April 26th. Ingrebourne Valley, up to six. Leyton Flats, six in Apr. Rainham Marshes, up to ten, seen from Feb-Dec. Tylers Common, 17 on June 15th. Wanstead Park, up to 12 in Apr-July. Warren Gorge, max seven on July 1st.
- Herts Amwell GP (1+), 31 on Apr 13th. Bottom Wood, Maple Cross (5). Croxley Moor (5). Cuffley (7). Essendon (9). Fir & Pond Woods (6). Frogmore GP (6). Garston (16). Hatfield Park (5). Maple Lodge NR (11). Northaw Great Wood, 20 on June 21st incl fledged young. Ridge (5). Rye Meads (34). Smallford (5). St Albans (4). Stocker's Lake (7). Potters Bar, nine on May 3rd & 24th. Hatfield, Roe Hyde, nine on Apr 28th. Redwell Wood Farm, ten on July 1st. S. Mimms, nine on May 9th.
- Middx Abney Park Cemetery (8). Brent Res (24) on Apr 26th. Bushy Park (10). Lake Farm CP (3). The Paddock LNR, Tottenham (6). Tottenham Marsh (27). Trent Park (5). Alexandra Park, up to 15. East India Dock Basin, up to six in Apr, May and Nov. Enfield, Vicarage Farm, up to six.
- Bucks Wraybury GP, 430 trapped between July and Oct.
- Kent Crossness (4). Chipstead Lake, ten on Apr 29th. Danson Park, six on May 29th. Sevenoaks WR, peak of 17 in Apr and June. Sutton at Hone, up to 12.
- Surrey Arbrook Common (5). Beddington SF (19). Esher: The Ledges (8); West End Common (9). Hogsmill SF (3). Kingston Cemetery (3). Molesey Heath (13). Richmond Park (50). S. Norwood Lake (6). Wandsworth Common (7). Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (c.100). London Wetland Centre (2+); 21 on Sept 10th; birds present from Feb-Dec.
- In Lond Regent's Park (14).

**1300 Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*  
Status: scarce passage migrant.

Only one confirmed record was reported this year.

- Essex Rainham, two on Oct 8th and one on Oct 10th (MorD; SmJ).

**1308 Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*  
Status: scarce passage migrant and former breeding summer visitor.

Reported from seven sites (2007, eight sites), the most urban locality again being Alexandra Park. As in recent years, most of the sightings represent passage migrants, but there were records in the mid-breeding season from two Surrey sites, Limsfield Chart and Sanderstead Plantation.

- Herts Northaw Great Wood (1) one singing intermittently on April 27th (BeC).

Middx Alexandra Park, one from Sept 12th-44th (GaA).

- Surrey Limsfield Chart (1) on April 19th and from June 12th-14th (OIPJ). London Wetland Centre, one from Aug 9th-19th (WrT, MaS and SeN). Sanderstead Plantation (1) on June 7th and (2) on June 10th (CRSPB; BiJ). Wandsworth Common (1) on May 1st (WhPD). Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (1) from April 24th- 25th (WiD, WiJPP and CoB).

1311 Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Status: common and widespread, breeding summer visitor and passage migrant, and increasingly widespread in winter.

Chiffchaff can now be heard in all months of the year, though the highest numbers are recorded during spring and autumn passage, especially the autumn. Counts of singing males/territories were similar to 2007; some of the highest included 60+ on Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath, 21 at Richmond Park and 17 at Bricket Wood Common and Molesey Heath. Breeding was confirmed at 14 sites. Autumn counts of 20+ were recorded at Beddington SF, Rye Meads and London Wetland Centre and 228 birds were trapped at Wraysbury in September by Runnymede Ringing Group.

Over-wintering birds were reported from more than 50 sites, with Jan-Feb figures a little below, but December figures somewhat higher, than 2007 (see table). The sector notes give counts of singing males/territories, shown ( ) for sites with seven or more birds (two within the London boroughs and all sites in Inner London) followed by other notable counts.

Ten sightings at the London Wetland Centre and one at Alexandra Palace on 15-16th Sept were considered by their observers to include individuals of the Scandinavian race *P. c. abietinus*.

Chiffchaff, over-wintering birds	Jan	Feb	Nov	Dec
Essex	10	4	16	28
Herts	10	6	8	10
Middx	5	10	4	9
Bucks	-	1	-	-
Kent	2	1	5	3
Surrey	7	9	16	22
In Lond	1	-	-	-
Total	35	31	49	72

- Essex Dagenham Chase (8). Bedfords Park, 19 on Apr 9th. Havering CP, 16 on Apr 26th. Ingrebourne Valley, 16 on Apr 3rd. Mayesbrook Park, 20 on Oct 19th. Thames Barrier Park, seven on Sept 21st. Walthamstow Res, 14 on Mar 26th. Wanstead Park, 11 on Apr 15th, eight on July 1st.
- Herts Bricket Wood Common (17). Frogmore GP (8). Millward's Park, Hatfield (8). Northaw Great Wood (16+). Radlett (11). S. Mimms (7). Rye Meads (17), 50 on July 12th. Wildhill (7).
- Middx Brent Res (10), 32 on Aug 23rd. The Paddock LNR, Tottenham (2). Parkside Farm, Enfield (2). Tottenham Marsh (13). Alexandra Park, 12 on Sept 16th. East India Dock Basin 1-2 in Apr and Aug-Dec. Lake Farm CP, 11 on Sept 22nd. Trent Park, bred, 11 on Sept 12th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 369 trapped from June-Dec, incl 228 in Sept (RRG).
- Kent Crossness, max of 11 on Sept 28th. Foots Cray Meadows, up to 12 in Apr. Sevenoaks WR, max of 22 on Apr 12th.
- Surrey Arbrook Common (7). Beddington SF (7). Esher: The Ledges (8); West End Common (10). Horton CP (7). Mitcham Common (11). Molesey Heath (17). Richmond Park (21). S. Norwood Lake (5). Sydenham Hill Wood (3) on April 3rd. Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (60+).
- In Lond Kensington Gdns, one on Jan 1st. Regent's Park (1) bred; 12 on Aug 1st.

- 1311 Siberian Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*  
 Status: rare winter visitor and passage migrant.

All sightings are given below.

- Bucks Horton GP, one apparent *tristis* (call not heard) on Dec 16th (HeCDR).  
 Middx Stoke Newington Res, one on Dec 31st stayed until Jan 6th 2009 (PeMJ).

- 1312 Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*  
 Status: common and widespread passage migrant, declining as a breeding species in the London Area.

The song of the Willow Warbler is heard less often nowadays in the London Area than in the past. Only a single site reported ten or more territories and only three sites had 5-9 territories in 2008. Undoubtedly the decline is real, although there may be an element of under-recording and more records would be welcome. The first bird of the year was at Staines Moor on March 21st and the last at Rainham on Nov 25th. The highest numbers were reported during the autumn passage, with 20+ birds at Rye Meads, Stoke Newington Res and Regent's Park in August.

Records of singing males/territories are listed below (nos. in brackets) for sites with two or more males (one or more within the London boroughs) followed by some of the higher counts. Note that, as some birds were heard only on one date, the data is likely to include some passage birds.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP, three juv on Sept 1st. Chingford Plain (4) on April 25th. Cornmill Meadows (8). Dagenham Chase (7). Davy Down (2). Epping Forest: Lippitts Hill (1); Whitehouse Plain (1). Highams Park Lake (2). Waterworks NR (1). Bedfords Park, 12 on Aug 22nd. Fairlop Waters, seven on Apr 19th. Mayesbrook Park, five on Aug 16th. Rainham Marshes, ten on Aug 22nd & 25th.
- Herts Amwell GP (3). Chiswell Green (3). Frogmore GP (4). Hatfield, Roe Hyde (2). Hilfield Park Res (2). Jersey Farm (9). Maple Lodge NR (2). N. Mymms Park (4). Northaw Great Wood (2). Potters Bar (2). Redwell Wood Farm (2). St Albans (2). Stocker's Lake (2). Rye Meads, 1-4 recorded regularly, 30 on Aug 15th.
- Middx Brent Res (3-7) singing in Apr. Bushy Park (1) on April 16th. Enfield: Parkside Farm (1); Vicarage Farm (1). Lake Farm CP (1-3); juvs seen on June 27th and July 3rd. Tottenham Marsh (2). Trent Park (3). Alexandra Park, eight on Aug 13th. Stoke Newington Res, max of 20 on Aug 23rd.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 27 trapped from July-Sept; 20 trapped in Spring.
- Kent Crossness S. Marsh (2) on April 28th. Greenwich Park (2).
- Surrey Banstead Downs (10). Bookham Common (3). Kew (2) on Apr 15th. Mitcham Common (1) on Apr 12th. Morden Hall Park (1). Prince's Coverts (2). Richmond Park (1). S. Norwood CP (1) on Apr 15th. S. Norwood Lake (2). Spencer Rd Wetland (1) on Apr 16th. Tooting Common (1). Wandle Meadow Nature Pk (1). Wandsworth Common (2). Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (9). Beddington SF, 1-7 in Apr, 1-6 in Aug. London Wetland Centre, 1-9 in Apr, 1-11 in Aug. Riddlesdown, six in Aug-Sept.
- In Lond Regent's Park, peaks of 15 on Apr 16th and 25 on Aug 22nd.

- 1314 Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*  
 Status: breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.
- Only 80 territories were located this year (122 in 2007), but this figure is likely to under-represent the true breeding population. Many of the highest counts were in late autumn and winter, especially November, December and February, eg 11 at Tower Hamlets Cemetery in October and ten at Russia Dock Woodland in November.
- Numbers of singing males/territories (figs in brackets) are given below for sites with two or more pairs (one or more within the built up area), followed by some of the highest counts at other times.
- Essex Bedfords Park, 15 on Sept 28th. Belhus Woods CP, 11 on Oct 19th. Duck Wood, Harold Hill, 10 on Dec 16th. Fairlop Waters, 10 on Nov 23rd and Dec 18th. Gt Warley, 25 on Nov 4th. Ingrebourne Valley, 12 on Nov 19th. Mar Dyke Valley, Davy Down, 14 on Oct 23rd. Warley Gap, ten on Nov 4th.
- Herts Bricket Wood Common (13-15). Brookmans Park (3). Watford, Buck's Hill, (4). Essendon (3). Fir & Pond Woods (2). Garston (11-13), two family groups seen. Maple Lodge NR (2). Radlett (3). Rye Meads (2). Stocker's Lake (3). Tyttenhanger GP (2). St Albans, Marshalwick (3+). Hatfield, Millward's Park, three on May 25th. Northaw Great Wood, 34 (incl juv) on June 21st, 32 on Nov 29th. Cheshunt GP, 20 on Nov 1st.
- Middx Alexandra Park (1+), 16 on Sept 25th. Brent Res (2), bred; 14 on Oct 11th. Forty Hall, Enfield (2). Lakeside, Oakwood (2). Pymmes Park (1). Trent Park (2), 26 on Dec 15th. Abney Park Cemetery, at least ten on Oct 19th. Bushy Park, 20 on Dec 14th. Tower Hamlets Cemetery, 11 on Oct 21st. Whitewebbs Wood, 13 on Dec 3rd.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 17 trapped during September.
- Kent Beckenham Place Park (2). Joyden's Wood, 20 on Dec 23rd. Sevenoaks WR, 20 on Feb 9th & 24th. Sutton at Hone, 11 on Nov 6th.
- Surrey Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (21). Addington Hills, 15 on Nov 6th. Colley Hill, Reigate, 20 on Oct 12th. Kew Gardens, at least ten on May 31st, 20 on Sept 28th. London Wetland Centre, 38 on Oct 24th. Nonsuch Park, ten on Sept 27th. R. Thames, Putney towpath, ten on Oct 19th. Richmond Park, 11 on Dec 5th. S. Norwood Lake, ten on Oct 21st and Nov 30th.
- In Lond Kensington Gdns (1). Regent's Park (7), 32 on Nov 3rd. Russia Dock Woodland, ten on Nov 14th.

- 1315 Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapilla*  
 Status: scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; rare breeder.

This year showed a welcome increase on 2007's four territories, with a total of 17 singing birds reported at some stage during the breeding season, though this figure may include some passage migrants. Whether any pairs actually nested is uncertain, as most records relate to a single day. But there is no doubt that far more birds were seen in 2008 than 2007, with sightings from c. 67 sites (41 in 2007), the majority being in Essex and Herts. The records below are simply the sites with dates when single birds were reported, except where further information is provided.

- Essex Bedford's Park, Apr 30th, May 11th and Sept 28th. Dagenham Chase, two m. on Dec 15th, one on 20th & 27th. Epping Forest, one singing on May 17th, seen on June 6th and several dates in Dec. Grays, Lion Gorge, Nov 1st. Gt. Warley, two in Jan-Feb, three on Feb 12th, one on Nov 15th & 25th. Harold Hill, Nov 16th. Hornchurch, one in a garden on Jan 20th. Ingrebourne Valley, one on Dec 1st, three on Dec 13th-14th and one on 31st. Leyton Flats, Feb 12th and Sept 22nd. Mayesbrook Park, Apr 25th. Middlesex FB, Feb 14th. Ongar Park Wood, a pair on May 5th. Chafford Hundred, Mill Wood, Jan 30th and Feb 1st. Rainham Marshes, two on May 25th, one on June 4th. South Weald, Dec 23rd. Walthamstow Res, Apr 6th-7th and Nov 16th. Wanstead Park, one on Mar 5th and two on Mar 21st. Warley, Apr 19th. Warley Gap, Feb 2nd. Warley Place EWT, one on Jan 31st, two on Feb 2nd & 4th, one on 23rd and Mar 7th & 12th. Weald Park, Jan 1st.
- Herts Broxbourne Woods (2), two singing on June 2nd & 19th; one on June 24th and Nov 22nd. Chiswell Green, one on Jan 1st and two on Mar 5th. Fir & Pond Woods, Feb 18th & 26th. Frogmore GP, Apr 18th. Garston, Apr 29th. Northaw Great Wood, May 7th and June 8th. Panshanger Stables, Mar 13th. Redwell Wood, Apr 12th and May 1st. Rye Meads, May 2nd. Site A, one on Apr 12th. Site B, Jan 1st, May 1st and June 20th. Site C, three on May 4th, one on June 8th and two on 16th. Wildhill, May 18th. Woodside, two on May 25th and one on June 15th.
- Midxx Abney Park Cemetery, two on Apr 14th, one on Sept 22nd, five on Oct 8th and two on 19th. Alexandra Park, two on Sept 2nd, one on Oct 25th. Bow Creek Ecology Park, Oct 9th. Brent Res, Nov 23rd and Dec 17th & 24th. East India Dock Basin, one on Apr 3rd, two on 6th-7th and one on June 3rd. Forty Hall, Jan 28th. Middlesex FB, Oct 15th & 25th. Tower Hamlets Cemetery, 1-2 from Jan 1st-Mar 29th. Trent Park, Feb 9th & 14th and several dates in Dec. Vicarage Farm, Enfield, Oct 11th.
- Bucks Woodlands Park Lake, Feb 24th.
- Kent Brockley Cemetery, Jan 27th. Danson Park, Nov 25th. Greenhithe, Apr 27th. Lewisham, nr Tesco, Nov 14th. Northfleet, May 1st. Oxleas Wood, Jan 8th. Sevenoaks WR, Aug 17th.
- Surrey Addington Hills, two on Jan 12th, one on Feb 12th. Ashtead, Dec 6th. Banstead Downs, regular from Oct 31st-Dec 24th, with three on Dec 8th. Bookham Common, Apr 14th and Dec 10th. Bramley Bank, Sept 26th. London Wetland Centre, one on Apr 2nd & 4th, 1-2 on three dates in Oct, one on Nov 12th and Dec 1st. Richmond Park, Mar 13th. Sydenham Hill Wood, Apr 3rd and Dec 2nd. Trevereux, Nov 20th. Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath, May 5th and Nov 8th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, May 17th, Sept 17th and Dec 3rd. Russia Dock Woodland, two on Nov 6th.

1335

**Spotted Flycatcher***Muscicapa striata*

Status: declining breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

It is disappointing to see London's Spotted Flycatchers mirroring the national trend, with only 11 possible territories recorded in 2008 (19 in 2006; 13 in 2007). However, the majority of this year's birds successfully fledged young. The first spring migrant was seen on May 1st at Wandsworth



Common, heralding a typical light passage, a little later than last year. The autumn passage was better, with Essex having some of the largest counts, and the last bird at South Weald Cricket Pitch on Oct 2nd.

All breeding records (no. of territories in brackets) are given, plus counts of four or more migrants and all Inner London records.

Essex	No breeding records, but good numbers of autumn migrants. Bedfords Park, ten on Aug 22nd, 14 on 23rd & six on 28th. Rainham Marshes, four on Aug 22nd & 23rd, four on Sept 18th & 19th.
Herts	Amwell GP (1), bred, fledgling seen. Cassiobury Park (1), pair on several dates in June, breeding uncertain. Hatfield (1), territorial bird on July 13th, four on Aug 25th. N. Mymms Park (1), seven on Aug 31st. Radlett (1), pair on July 23rd. Verulamium Lake (1), four on Aug 21st & 22nd.
Middx	Alexandra Park, five on Aug 22nd. Lake Farm CP, four on Sept 8th. Vicarage Farm, four on Aug 29th.
Kent	Greenwich Park (1), a family party of four on July 21st.
Surrey	Bookham Common (1) bred. London Wetland Centre, six on Aug 31st. Richmond Park (1), Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (1).
In Lond	Kensington Gdns (1), a singing male on May 27th. Regent's Park, four on Aug 22nd, seven on 29th and one on Sept 13th.

#### 1349 Pied Flycatcher

*Ficedula hypoleuca*

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers.

About 25 birds were seen this year, marking a return to something like form for this charismatic passage migrant (11 in 2007). There were many more autumn records than last year, with the first on August 4th and the last on September 28th. All records are given.

Essex	Bedfords Park, one on Sept 12th, 19th & 20th (JuCR). Chafford Hundred, Warren Gorge, one from Sept 18th-20th (BaR). Grays Gorge, one from Sept 17th-18th (BaR). Wanstead Flats, one on Sept 1st (LeJ).
Middx	Abney Park Cemetery, two on Aug 12th, one on Sept 2nd (PeMJ). Alexandra Park, two on Aug 21st, one staying to 22nd; one on Sept 12th, 16th & 28th (GaA; WaRJ; APOG). Stoke Newington Res, one on Sept 3rd & 8th (PeMJ). Tower Hamlets Cemetery, one on Sept 7th (WaRJ).
Surrey	Bookham Common, one on Apr 26th (BiR). Carshalton, one on Apr 19th (CoDA). London Wetland Centre, one on Aug 31st (SeN). Wandsworth Common, one on Aug 29th (WhPD).
In Lond	Kensington Gdns, one on Apr 22nd (WoI). Regent's Park, one from Sept 11th-13th; one on 18th and one from 25th-27th (DuAR).

#### 1364 Bearded Tit

*Panurus biarmicus*

Status: rare autumn and winter visitor, very rare breeder.

Recorded only from four sites along the lower Thames corridor, and once again there were no breeding records. A majority of the sightings were from Rainham Marshes, though, in contrast to last year, none were seen over the summer. A summary of all records is given below.

- Essex Ingrebourne Valley, two on Dec 31st (McD). Mar Dyke Valley, Davy Down, one on Nov 5th (BaR). Rainham Marshes, up to four on several dates in Jan, Feb and Mar, then 1-2 on many dates from Oct-Dec, with a peak of five on Nov 17th (mo).
- Kent Swanscombe Marsh, two on Dec 30th (LaA).

**1437 Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

Status: common and widespread breeding resident.

This attractive little bird seems to be thriving in the capital, with a healthy number of nesting pairs located in woodland, thickets of scrub and even a few suburban gardens. By late summer, post-breeding flocks had appeared in many localities, with parties of 15 or more at over 50 sites.

Breeding records (nos. of pairs/broods in brackets) for sites with four or more pairs (two or more within the built up area), are given below, along with some of the highest autumn and winter counts.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP (6), 26 incl 16 juv on June 2nd; 26 on Jan 2nd and Aug 8th. Grays Chalk Pits (3), five juv on June 7th. Mar Dyke Valley, Davy Down (2+) 13 incl nine juv on June 4th; 29 on Dec 3rd. Warren Gorge (4); 20 incl 12 juv on July 1st. Claybury Park, 20 on Dec 4th. Fairlop Waters, 20 on Oct 22nd. Ingrebourne Valley, 24 on Oct 9th and Nov 24th. Rainham Marshes, 32 on Sept 10th. West Ham Park, up to six in Jan-Mar.
- Herts Aldenham Res (8). Berrybushes Wood (5). Coopers Green Lane (4). Letchmore Heath (4). Northaw Great Wood (5+), 60+ incl juv on June 21st. Rye Meads (8), 50 on Aug 29th. Hilfield Park Res, 25 on Aug 24th. Little Berkhamsted, 25 on Dec 14th. St Albans, Marshalwick, 25 on Nov 5th. N. Mymms Park, 20 on Aug 17th & 31st, 30 on Sept 20th.
- Middx Alexandra Park, bred. Tottenham Marsh (2+). Lake Farm CP, peak of 21 on July 19th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 33 trapped during Sept.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, 35 on Dec 24th. Sutton at Hone, 32 on Dec 12th.
- Surrey London Wetland Centre (5+), 12 juv on May 16th; 41 on Aug 30th, 73 on Oct 20th. Norbury, 30 on Nov 16th. Richmond Park (2). West End Common (4). Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (60+). Addington Hills, 34 on Sept 12th. Beddington SF, 20 on Oct 12th. Croydon, reported in 87% of gardens (RSPB Croydon group); 25 on Dec 3rd. Holmethorpe SP, 25 on Oct 23rd and Nov 9th. Kew Gardens, 20+ on May 31st. Lloyd Park, 25 on Dec 5th. Purley, 20 on Oct 1st. Richmond Park, 20 on Nov 8th. Shirley Park GC, 25 on Dec 3rd. S. Norwood Lake, 25 on Aug 19th and Dec 3rd.
- In Lond Regent's Park, 65 on Aug 23rd.

**1440 Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

Status: localised and declining breeding resident and scarce winter visitor.

Eleven breeding or possible breeding records were received in 2008, a welcome increase from only three in 2007. The majority were from Herts, with Northaw Great Wood standing out as a key breeding site, and the only

place with fledged young seen. Sector records are set out below (no. of singing males/pairs in brackets) including all records for Essex, Middx and Kent, and a summary of the most significant records for Herts and Surrey.

- Essex Claybury Park, one on Dec 4th.
- Herts Berrybushes Wood (1). Brookmans Park (1), two on June 28th. Northaw Great Wood (6+), recorded in most months, at least six territories and at least two broods seen, 14 on June 21st. Tyttenhanger, Coppice Wood (1). Amwell GP, one on Dec 28th. Bayford, one on Dec 26th. Bencroft Wood, two on Feb 24th. Cuffley, two on Nov 29th, one on Dec 24th. Essendon, one on Mar 24th. Hatfield, Home Park, one on Dec 7th. Little Berkhamsted, one on Dec 14th. N. Mymms Park, 1-2 in Mar-Apr. Panshanger Aerodrome, one on six dates from Jan-Apr. Redwell Wood Farm, two on Nov 12th. Waterend, one on Sept 13th and Oct 11th. Whippendell Wood, two on Jan 25th. Wildhill, one on Dec 31st.
- Middx Whitewebbs Wood, one on Jan 13th, 28th and 30th, Feb 5th and Mar 9th.
- Kent M25 Clackett Lane Services, one on Mar 23rd.
- Surrey Bookham Common (1), 1-2 in Mar and Apr, one on July 3rd and two on Dec 9th. Chessington, one on Aug 9th. Croydon, reported from 5% of 101 gardens (RSPB Croydon Group). Great Church Wood, Woldingham, one on Apr 6th. Headley Heath, three on Feb 4th, two on Mar 2nd. Hutchinson's Bank, three on Feb 10th, one on Apr 14th, Aug 14th & 19th. King's Wood, Sanderstead, two on Apr 26th, seen regularly in June. London Wetland Centre, two on Oct 29th. Reigate, Colley Hill, two on Oct 18th. Selsdon Woods LNR, 1-3 on five dates in Jan-Mar, then one on June 28th and Dec 5th. Tooting Common, one on Dec 17th. Trevereux, one on Jan 1st. Upper Norwood, one on Nov 16th. West End Common, 1-2 on May 21st. White Hill, Mickleham, one on Aug 30th.

#### 1461 Coal Tit

#### *Periparus ater*

Status: common breeding species.

A welcome upsurge in reports this year confirms the healthy status of this species, which in parts of London, and notably the outer SW London suburbs, eg Barnes, Kingston and New Malden, is clearly a common garden bird. It was reported in 79% of 101 gardens in the Croydon area (RSPB Croydon Group survey). Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath again stands out as a stronghold with over 60 territories recorded; it would be good to see such detailed recording at other important sites.

Possible and confirmed breeding records (no. of pairs or singing males in brackets) are given below for sites with two or more pairs (one or more within the London boroughs) together with a summary of other records and all records for inner city areas and Inner London.

- Essex Records were received from 12 sites, with most only of 1-2 birds and breeding season records only from Bedfords Park and Epping Forest. Bedfords Park (1). Epping Forest, 1-2 birds seen or heard at Connaught Water, Copped Hall Warren, Lodge Rd and Strawberry Hill Ponds. Larks Wood, Chingford, one on Feb 3rd, Sept 26th and Dec 21st. Great Warley, four on Feb 9th. Leyton Flats, one on Oct 13th.

- Herts Garston (14). Hatfield (3). Hatfield Park (2). Northaw Great Wood (4+), 30 on June 21st, incl young. N. Mymms Park (3). Potters Bar (4). Broxbourne Woods, six on June 24th. Millward's Park. 21+ on May 25th.
- Middx Alexandra Park (1). Brent Res, Birchen Grove (1) family party in May. Enfield: Chase Green (1) on Feb 8th; County School (1); Lavender Hill Cemetery (1); Vicarage Farm (1). Forty Hall (1). Grovelands Park (1). Mereway LNR (1). Oakwood Park (2). Trent Park (6). Abney Park Cemetery, one on Oct 9th. Tottenham Cemetery, one on Oct 17th.
- Kent Beckenham Place Park (2). Brockley Cemetery, two on Jan 27th. Joyden's Wood, 12 on Mar 25th.
- Surrey Kew Gdns (1+), 9 adult + fledglings on July 12th. London Wetland Centre (1+). Richmond Park (7+). Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (60+). 1-2 pairs reported from gardens in Barnes, Cobham, Epsom, Esher, Kingston and New Malden. Esher Common, 19 on Jan 26th and 15 on July 14th.
- In Lond Hyde Park & Kensington Gdns (1), three on Jan 1st. Regent's Park (6).

### Coal Tit, continental race

- Middx Tower Hamlets Cemetery, 1-2 with Long-tailed Tits on Oct 22nd-23rd (WaRJ).

### 1462 Blue Tit

*Cyanistes caeruleus*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

One of London's most successful species, the Blue Tit continues to be seen and heard in all areas. Although more records have been received this year, including a good many breeding reports from garden nest-boxes, 'breeding in parks and larger open spaces was under-recorded; there were very few records from Middx, and none from Inner London. Hence the data below represent no more than a tiny fraction of the population.

The BBS indicates a steady increase both nationally and in the London region from 1995-2005, but quite a sharp dip from 2006 onwards, so it is important not to lose track of this species just because it is so common. Records of singing males/possible/probable breeding pairs for sites with four or more pairs are given, followed by some of the higher counts.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP (5+), 47 on Feb 10th, 36 on June 2nd, incl 22 juv. Epping Forest, Highams Park & Lake, 15 juv on May 19th. Grays Chalk Pits (7), six juv on June 20th. Grays Cemetery (7). Grays, Lion Gorge (10), eight juv on June 7th. Larks Wood, Chingford (5). Warren Gorge (12), six juv on June 1st; 24 on Sept 18th. Cely Woods, 40 on Jan 8th. Mar Dyke Valley, Davy Down, 37 on Jan 14th, ten juv on June 24th. West Ham Park, 6-8 in summer, 33 on Feb 17th.
- Herts Frogmore GP (16). Northaw Great Wood (20+), 100+ on June 21st, incl fledged young. Rye Meads (15) on June 1st. Hatfield, 40+ on Sept 10th. N. Mymms Park, 60+ on Oct 11th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 25 trapped during Sept.
- Kent Joyden's Wood, regular counts of 20+. Sevenoaks WR, 50 on Apr 15th, 70 on Dec 22nd & 23rd.

Surrey Arbrook Common (13). Beddington SF (11). Bookham Common (14). Molesey Heath (7). Croydon, found in 99% of 101 gardens (RSPB Croydon Group). London Wetland Centre, 38 on Aug 13th, 48 on Dec 4th. Norbury. 69 on Feb 1st.

**1464 Great Tit** *Parus major*  
Status: abundant breeding resident.

Although abundant throughout the London area, the Great Tit is also under-recorded as a breeding bird. Only two breeding records were received from Middx and none from Inner London. However, BBS London data indicates a significant increase over the past 15 years, albeit levelling off since 2006, and in general LNHS records bear this out, with substantial counts from better-watched areas.

Breeding records for sites with five or more pairs (and all breeding records from the Inner London boroughs) are given below, with nos. of singing males/possible pairs in brackets, followed by some of the higher counts.

Essex Belhus Woods CP (3+), 25 incl 16 juv on June 2nd. Highams Park Lake (2+), 15 juv on May 19th. Larks Wood, Chingford (1+). Mar Dyke Valley, Davy Down, 24 incl ten juv on June 23rd-24th. Warren Gorge (12), six juv in June. West Ham Park, 12 on May 17th, 18 on Dec 28th.

Herts Northaw Great Wood, 20+ recorded regularly, 65+ on July 14th, incl many fledglings. Cassiobury Park (2). Rye Meads (31). Chess Valley, 23 on May 5th. Merry Hill, 25 on Jan 1st, 20+ seen regularly.

Middx Alexandra Park, bred. The Paddock LNR Tottenham (1).

Bucks Wraysbury GP, 21 trapped in Sept.

Kent Joyden's Wood, 20 on Feb 14th and Apr 9th. Sevenoaks WR, 50 on Apr 15th.

Surrey Arbrook Common (7). Beddington SF (47); 39 on Feb 1st, 49 on Dec 1st. Esher: The Ledges (9); West End Common (12). London Wetland Centre (1+), six juv on July 2nd; monthly counts of 38 in Feb, 33 in June and 35 in Dec. Molesey Heath (9); 22 on Jan 26th. Croydon, reported in 98% of 101 gardens (RSPB Croydon Group).

**1479 Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*  
Status: common breeding resident.

About 80 pairs/territories were reported this year (cf 60 in 2007 and 101 in 2006). Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath stands out as an important site to the south, whilst the highest number of recorded breeding pairs in the north came from Northaw Great Wood. However, Nuthatches must also be breeding unrecorded in many other woods across the capital.

Nuthatches now turn up well within the city where suitable old trees occur. Nesting was reported on Tooting Common and birds were seen or heard at Wandsworth Common and Kensington Gardens. An unusual place to see one was some allotments in Walthamstow on Aug 16th, presumably on post-breeding dispersal. In Surbiton, a Nuthatch favoured the sunflower hearts at a garden bird-feeder.

The notes below give counts of singing males/possible breeding pairs (nos. in brackets) where two or more were found (and all possible breeding records within the London boroughs) followed by other notable counts.

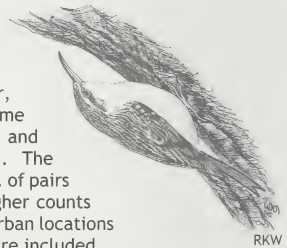
- Essex Epping Forest: Connaught Water, four on Jan 5th; High Beech (1), family of four on June 1st; seen or heard in five other parts of the forest. Warley, eight on Feb 9th. Larks Wood, Chingford, two in July and Aug.
- Herts Bellbar (3). Cuffley (1), family party of eight on May 30th. Garston (7). Hatfield (1+), family group of five on July 13th. Hatfield Park (1), family of five on June 4th. Northaw Great Wood (5+), 19 incl fledgelings on June 21st. Potters Bar (2). Cassiobury Park, 10+ on Jan 11th.
- Middx Alexandra Park (2), five on Jan 1st. Grovelands Park (1), five on Dec 6th. Oakwood Park (1). Park Farm, Enfield (1). Totteridge Valley (1). Trent Park (1+), ten on June 9th, young seen on June 18th.
- Kent Danson Park (1), three juv on June 16th. Bayley's Hill, four on Aug 14th. Joyden's Wood, four on Jan 29th. Sevenoaks, four on Dec 5th. Sevenoaks WR, four on Aug 30th.
- Surrey Richmond Park (7). Tooting Common (2), pair feeding young on May 28th. Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (16+). Dulwich Park, four on Mar 14th. Hinchley Wood, eight on June 4th. Kew Gardens, four on Feb 15th. Selsdon Woods LNR, 11 on Jan 9th. S. Norwood Lake, four on Mar 30th.
- In Lond Kensington Gardens, one on Jan 4th.

#### 1486 Treecreeper

*Certhia familiaris*

Status: common breeding resident.

A total of 79 possible or confirmed breeding pairs were reported in 2008, (cf 69 in 2007; 82 in 2006), which might suggest that the London population is relatively stable. However, as last year, over half of these records came from just two sites, Richmond Park and Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath. The notes below set out breeding records (no. of pairs in brackets), along with some of the higher counts and other records of interest. For more urban locations within the London boroughs all records are included.



- Essex Bedfords Park (1). Cornmill Meadows (1). Epping Forest, Red Path (1). Rainham Marshes, one on Oct 3rd-6th, an unlikely place to find this bird.
- Herts Bellbar (1). Cassiobury Park (5), ten on Jan 11th. Chiswell Green (1). Essendon (1). Hatfield (1). Hatfield Aerodrome (1). Hatfield Park (1). Little Berkhamsted (1). Maple Lodge NR (1). N. Mymms Park (1). Northaw Great Wood (6+), 14 incl fledglings on July 14th. Potters Bar (1). St Albans (1). St Albans, Marshalwick (1). Stocker's Lake (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1).
- Middx Forty Hall (1). Parkside Farm, Enfield (1). Trent Park (1+), juv seen in June; up to nine in winter. Whitewebbs Wood (1). Alexandra Park, one on Jan 30th and Sept 23rd. Brent Res, one on Feb 9th. Grovelands Park, one in Jan, Feb and Dec. Queen's Wood, one on Mar 29th.



- Bucks Wraysbury GP, two trapped in July, one in Aug, two in Sept.  
 Kent Beckenham Place Park, one on Jan 19th. Sevenoaks WR, six on Mar 18th.  
 Surrey Holmethorpe SP (1). Kew Gardens (1), five on May 31st. Prince's Coverts (1).  
 Richmond Park (13). Sanderstead, King's Wood (1). West End Common (1).  
 Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (29).  
 In Lond Kensington Gdns, one on Jan 1st and 2nd.

**1490 Penduline Tit** *Remiz pendulinus*  
 Status: rare vagrant.

For the fifth consecutive year, Rainham Marshes hosted this rare continental winter visitor. Two birds were seen on eight dates in December. Penduline Tits were first recorded at Rainham in 2004. It is the only known site in the UK which regularly holds wintering birds of this species. No sightings were reported elsewhere in the LNHS Area.

- Essex Rainham Marshes, two on Dec 6th, 10th, 12th, 14th, 19th, 20th, 30th & 31st (VaH; RSPB; RSPB; RSPB; SmD; RSPB; ReM; SmD).

**1508 Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*  
 Status: Rare passage migrant, most often in May.

A single record on a typical date in early May.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, a male on May 11th (WoR).

**1515 Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*  
 Status: rare passage migrant

Two sightings were reported, making 2008 a fairly average year by recent standards. Both were adult males, the first in spring at Greenwich Peninsula, the other in autumn at a more typical site in Richmond Park.

- Kent Greenwich Peninsula, Pear Tree Way, an adult male on May 24th (AIC).  
 Surrey Richmond Park, Hawthorn Valley, adult male, Aug 2nd, (LeM, MaFJ *et al*).

**1520 Great Grey Shrike** *Lanius excubitor*  
 Status: Rare passage migrant and winter visitor

A single representative of this less than annual visitor, found at Brent Res during the autumn passage.

- Middx Brent Res, one from Sept 28th-Oct 2nd (FiS).

**1539 Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*  
 Status: common breeding bird, the resident population boosted by immigrants in autumn and winter.

In contrast with many members of the crow family, the Jay is a secretive nester, and few breeding records are received. Observers are encouraged to look out for nests and young. However, the population appears to be relatively stable, judging from BBS data. There was some evidence of an autumn influx, with several counts of 10-20 birds in late Sept-early Oct.

The notes below list all records with evidence of breeding - in some cases simply pairs seen together - no. of pairs shown ( ), together with all records for inner city localities and some of the higher counts elsewhere. No records were received from Inner London, though Jays are noted in the Regent's Park Bird Report for 2008.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP (1), juv on June 21st. Grays Cemetery (1) pair nest-building on Mar 12th. Grays Chalk Pits (2), two pairs nest-building on Mar 26th. Grays, Lion Gorge (1) pair nest-building on Mar 26th. Ingrebourne Valley (1) on Apr 1st. Thames Chase (1) a pair on May 3rd. Bedfords Park, 18 on Sep 29th. Epping Forest, 12 on Apr 9th. Mar Dyke Valley, Davy Down, 13 on Sept 15th. Rainham Marshes 15 on Sept 13th. West Ham Park, six on Oct 12th and Dec 28th.
- Herts Garston (7-8). Merry Hill, three juv on June 17th. Northaw Great Wood (1+), juv on July 3rd. Rye Meads (2), 11 on Sept 20th. Chess Valley, 11 on Sept 19th. Essendon, 14 on Sept 17th. N. Mymms Park, 12 on Sept 28th. Wildhill, ten on Sept 21st.
- Middx Alexandra Park, bred. Brent Res (2+), juv on July 9th. Enfield: Park Farm (1+), seven on Mar 17th; Vicarage Farm (1-2), four on Aug 21st. East India Dock Basin, one on Oct 8th. Oakwood Park, two on June 8th. Trent Park, four on Mar 14th.
- Kent Joyden's Wood, 13 on Apr 3rd. Sevenoaks WR, 20 on Sept 27th. Sutton at Hone, ten on Oct 9th.
- Surrey Cobham (1) juv on July 14th. Epsom Common, young heard on June 28th. Esher Common (2). Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath, bred, 12 on Oct 2nd. London Wetland Centre, 13 on Oct 6th. Nonsuch Park, 14 on Sept 20th. Selsdon Woods, 23 on Feb 11th. S. Norwood Lake, 15 on Sept 20th.

## 1549

**Magpie***Pica pica*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

This noisy and conspicuous species continues to thrive throughout the LNHS Area, gathering in substantial winter roosts. The highest count was 107 at Roding Valley Meadows on Jan 13th. The BBS suggests a 24% increase since 1994. However, although the Magpie nests throughout the LNHS Area, few breeding records were received.

Some unusual sightings included a bird riding on a Muntjac at Bricket Wood Common, another being attacked by a Grey Squirrel at Croydon, and one at Garston carrying off a live bank vole (which it had apparently "high-jacked" from a cat). Breeding records (no. of pairs in brackets) and the highest counts in each vice-county are noted below.

- Essex Highams Park (1), a pair bred near the station. Grays Chalk Pits, four juv seen on June 7th. Roding Valley Meadows, 107 on Jan 13th.

- Herts Rye Meads (7). Jersey Farm (4). Letchmore Heath, 50 foraging on Mar 9th.  
 Middx Alexandra Park, bred. Brent Res, 20 at a "Magpie wedding" on Apr 20th.  
 Trent Park, bred.
- Surrey Croydon Crematorium (1). Esher: Esher Common (2); The Ledges (6).  
 Richmond Park (2+). Nesting in gardens reported at Claygate, Cobham,  
 New Malden, Norwood and Surbiton. S. Norwood CP, 40+ on Mar 18th.

**1560 Jackdaw *Corvus monedula***

Status: Common breeding resident and passage migrant; much scarcer in the inner suburbs and city centre.

Although still a common breeding bird in the outer part of the LNHS Area, the Jackdaw occurs only as a visitor towards the centre, reflecting a lack of suitable foraging habitat. In more rural locations, impressive winter roosts can still be found, eg 2,600 at Beech Farm GP; c.1,500 at Holyfield Hall Farm; 920 at Hersham GP and 900 at Broadwater Lake. An unusual record was four pairs nesting on the underside of an M1 bridge at Garston!

All breeding records are given (nos. of pairs in brackets), followed by some of the largest flocks and all records for Inner London.

- Essex Grays, Southend Rd (1) two juv on May 25th. Highams Park Lake, birds visiting probable nest-site on Apr 8th. Bedfords Park, 300 on Nov 12th. Cornmill Meadows, 300 on Dec 25th. Hainault Forest, 100 on Nov 10th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 1,500 on Dec 21st. Holyfield Lake, 1,000 on Nov 16th.
- Herts Garston (4), nesting under M1 bridge. Potters Bar, birds visiting nest holes, Apr 21st. Rickmansworth, Chess Valley, many in suitable nesting habitat, Feb 24th. St Albans, Cotton Mill Lane (10). Woodoaks Farm (2). Beech Farm GP, 2,600 on Jan 17th and Feb 11th. Cheshunt, 1,500 going to roost on Jan 6th. Essendon, 300 going to roost on Aug 6th. Panshanger Park, 350 on Jan 25th.
- Middx Brent Res, 42 on Oct 13th. Broadwater Lake, 900 on Sept 20th. Bushy Park, 50 on June 2nd. Enfield Grammar School, 50 on June 15th. Stoke Newington Res, 95 on Oct 9th. Tottenham Marsh, 50 on Oct 9th.
- Bucks Colnbrook Landfill, one with a pale collar on June 7th.
- Kent Kemsing, 60 on Nov 27th. Sevenoaks WR, 220 on Mar 12th. Sevenoaks, Greatness Pits, 200 on Mar 21st. Sutton at Hone, 45 on Nov 6th.
- Surrey Cannon Hill Common, bred, many young on June 20th. Esher, Moore Lane (1) ad + juv on July 3rd. London Wetland Centre + nearby playing field, 11 juv on Aug 15th. Riddlesdown (2) two broods. Beddington SF, 600 on Oct 1st. Croydon, reported from 30% of 101 gardens (RSPB Croydon Group). Ham Lands, 180 on Dec 10th. Hersham GP, 920 on Dec 14th. Mitcham, 250 flew over at dusk on Apr 7th. Park Farm, Chessington, 400 on Nov 11th-12th. Richmond Park, 250 on Jan 10th. Walton Downs, 900 on Feb 9th. Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath, 125 on Sept 17th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, seen on seven dates in Jan-Mar, seven on Mar 19th and two on Oct 23rd. Tower of London, one overhead on Apr 4th.

- 1563 Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*  
 Status: Common breeding resident in the outer part of the LNHS Area, much scarcer in urban localities.
- Reports of 23 rookeries were received this year, with a total of 438 nests, which is an improvement on 2007, but still far short of the figure for 2006 (34 rookeries with 1,356 nests). The average number of nests per rookery was just 19 (cf 40 in 2006). Across the UK, the BBS indicates a decline of 8% from 1995 to 2008.
- Within the LNHS Area, the shortfall appears to stem, at least partly, from differences in surveying. Whilst good numbers were recorded in Herts, no records were received from some of the most significant rookeries in Essex, which were included in the total for 2006. Two rookeries were reported in Bucks; one at Rectory Wood, Denham, is thought have relocated from a previous rookery at Denham Place. In the Inner suburbs and city centre, Rooks are now no more than occasional visitors.
- Details of all rookeries, with no. of nests in brackets, followed by some of the highest counts in each sector and all records from the sites towards the city centre are given below.
- Essex Cornmill Meadows (20+). Magdalen Laver (13). Bedfords Park, 250 on Nov 12th. Holyfield Lake, 100 on Nov 16th. Orsett, Lofthalls Farm, 23 on Nov 17th. Priors GC, 50 on Jan 18th. Rainham Marshes, 58 on Dec 29th.
- Herts Borehamwood, Green Street (2). Bricket Wood Common (6-7). Broad Colney (13). Chiswell Green (32). Colney Park (23). Jersey Farm (6+). Hatfield, Woodside (10). Leavesden Green (10). London Colney (15). Radlett Hosp. (10). Ridge (30+). Shenley Park (2). St Albans, Oaklands College (50). S. Mimms (6). Watford: Buck's Hill (45); Garston Manor (10). Beech Farm, 600 on Jan 26th. Prae Wood, 200 on Jan 6th.
- Middx Ickenham Marsh (11). Alexandra Park, one on Apr 4th & 22nd and Oct 21st. Brent Res, two on May 5th. Stanwell, nine on Dec 20th. Staines Moor, ten on Dec 23rd. Tottenham Marsh, two on Apr 11th. Trent Park, 20+ on Dec 15th.
- Bucks Denham, Rectory Wood (40). Long Coppice (35).
- Kent Dryhill Manor Farm, two on Sept 19th. Sutton at Hone, 15 on Nov 6th.
- Surrey Titsey: Pitchfont Lodge (2); Titsey Hill (38). Beddington 22 on Feb 1st. Brooklands shopping centre, 12 on Jan 29th. Canon's Farm, 26 on Jan 13th. Holmethorpe SP, 16 on Feb 29th. London Wetland Centre, two on Oct 4th. Richmond Park, one on Apr 4th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, one on Feb 23rd and Apr 13th.

- 1567 Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*  
 Status: abundant breeding resident.

Abundant throughout the London Area, this species congregates especially along the foreshore of the Thames, in heavily used urban parks and in rubbish tips around the city fringe. The BBS shows a 54% increase in London since 1995, in contrast to a 1% increase for the UK as a whole. However, the LNHS receives relatively few records

and more nesting counts would be welcome, especially from the inner city. The highest winter counts included c.600 at Holmethorpe SP, 448 at Beddington SF, 245 at London Wetland Centre and 140 at Barking Park.

All breeding records are given, with no. of nests/territories (), together with all Inner London records and some of the highest counts elsewhere.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP, bred, two juv on June 2nd. Highams Park, nr station (1). Larks Wood, Chingford (1+). Mar Dyke Valley (1), two juv on July 14th. Walthamstow Res (10). Barking Park, 140 on Jan 1st. Bedfords Park, 150 on Nov 12th. Highams Park Lake, 39 on Apr 8th. Orsett, Fen Lane, 70 on Nov 17th. Rainham Marshes, 300 on July 2nd.
- Herts Northaw Great Wood, bred, juv seen in June-July. Redwell Wood Farm, bred; 100+ on Jan 27th. Rye Meads (4). Woodoaks Farm (1); 115 on Apr 17th. Oxhey Park, 111 on July 4th. Potters Bar, 150 on June 26th. Potters Crouch, 100 on Mar 5th. Tyttenhanger GP, 107 on Feb 1st.
- Middx Alexandra Park, bred. Tottenham Marsh (5), nested in trees and pylons.
- Bucks Colnbrook, 240 on Jan 28th. Kingcup Farm, 60 on Apr 14th.
- Kent Crossness S. Marsh, 100 on Aug 26th. Sevenoaks WR, 160 on Mar 12th.
- Surrey Arbrook Common (5). Cobham, Hogshill Lane (1+). Esher: Esher Common (3); West End Common (7); The Ledges (3); also a pair collecting nesting material in a back garden. Fishponds Wood LNR (1), pair + juv on Sept 5th. Kingston Cemetery (2). London Wetland Centre (1) nesting by towpath. Molesey Heath (5). Richmond Park (3). Beddington SF, 448 on Feb 1st. Holmethorpe SP, 600 on Jan 25th. Walton Downs, 400 on Jan 26th. Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath, 250 on Oct 25th.
- In Lond St James's Park, 78 on Oct 25th.

**1572 Raven *Corvus corax***

Status: Scarce visitor.

2008 appears to have been an unusually good year for sightings of Raven, with 16 records. Almost half the sightings were in Herts, where a bird is known to have settled near St Albans for some months.

- Essex Chingford, one flew over on June 5th (HuD). Romford, three flew over on June 20th (JoM).
- Herts Amwell GP, one on Feb 11th mobbing a Buzzard; two on Sept 13th and one on 22nd; one on Dec 21st (GLJ and GLT; BiP; ReB; ReB, BiP). Chiswell Green, one on June 5th (GaA). Potters Bar, one o/h on Feb 18th (GrA). Rye Meads, one on Sept 28th (RMP).
- Middx Alexandra Park, one flying W on Apr 22nd, mobbed by crows (MiD). Vicarage Farm, two on Dec 19th (CaRM).
- Bucks Q. Mother Res, two flew over on Apr 26th and May 1st (HeCDR).
- Surrey Beddington SF, two on Nov 25th (AJJP, PrF). Bookham Common, one on July 13th (PrAD). Painshill Park, one on Jan 16th, mobbed by crows (ScM). Richmond Park, one on Oct 27th (LeM).

- 1582 Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*  
 Status: common, but declining, breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

This species has declined sharply in recent years, with a fall of 38% from 1994-2008 across the UK as a whole, and 37% in the London Area (BBS data). Although still common across the LNHS Area, far fewer Starlings are now seen in the city centre than in the past. An influx of immigrants from the continent boosts the resident population in winter, leading to high counts from late October-early November and late January. A summary of breeding records (nos. of pairs, for sites with two or more pairs, in brackets) is given, followed by some of the highest counts.

- Essex Epping Forest, Highams Park Lake, 60 incl fledged young on Apr 18th. Hangman's Wood, Grays (5+), 32 juv on July 4th. Grays, Blackshots PF (3), 300 on Sept 23rd. Grays Cemetery, five juv on May 20th. Highams Park, Coolgardie Ave-station (4). Orsett: Mill Lane, 18 juv on June 10th; 500 on Oct 16th and Nov 5th. Terrells Heath Wood, 12 juv on May 20th. Thurrock Tech PF, 70 juv on July 4th. Walthamstow Res (4). Rainham Marshes, 8,000 on Jan 18th and Feb 4th-5th.
- Herts Blackbirds STW, 200 incl many juv on May 29th. Noke Farm, 350 on Aug 7th. Stocker's Farm, 75 juv on June 1st. Coopers Green GP, 300 on Aug 25th. Rickmansworth, Fieldways Farm, 300 on Aug 21st. Rye Meads, 1,000 on Oct 31st. Woodoaks Farm, 374 on Jan 21st.
- Middx Alexandra Park, bred. Bushy Park, 200 on Aug 6th. East India Dock Basin, 20 on Sept 7th. Hampton Court Park, 100 on Nov 15th. Lake Farm CP, 100 on Oct 15th. Staines Res, 200 on June 24th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 55 ringed on May 24th (RRG).
- Kent Crossness, 800 on Aug 3rd, 300 on Aug 26th and Nov 12th. Dartford, 600 on June 22nd. Greenhithe, 1,000 on Aug 24th.
- Surrey Nesting in private gardens recorded at Claygate, Cobham, Kingston, Long Ditton and New Malden. Kingston Cemetery, nest at waste transfer station. London Wetland Centre, max of 40 juv on June 27th; overall max 300 on Nov 4th. Beddington SF, 1,118 on Jan 1st. Canon's Farm, 600 on Mar 24th. Holmethorpe SP, 1,200 on Oct 26th.

- 1591 House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*  
 Status: breeding resident, declined severely since 1990s, perhaps levelling off?

The House Sparrow's decline continues to cause concern in London and many other urban areas. Whilst across the UK as a whole the species declined by 9% since 1994, the decline in London has been 68%, albeit levelling off to some extent since 2002 (BBS).

There is clearly substantial variation between different parts of the LNHS Area, eg out of 17 counts of 50 or more birds, more than half were in the Essex sector, with four in Surrey, two in Herts and just one in Middx. The results of a detailed breeding survey in Chingford bring some comfort, showing 195-266 nests in 10 x 0.5km squares (Wol). But the RSPB Croydon



Group's survey of gardens in Croydon, found House Sparrows in only 57% of gardens during the year. Sparrows remain scarce in many of the inner suburbs and central area, so it is good to see numbers picking up again at the Tower of London. More breeding records, especially from inner areas, would be welcome.

Breeding records, with nos. of nests/territories/breeding pairs in brackets, together with some of the largest counts and other records of interest, and a summary of records for Inner London are given below.

- Essex Chafford Hundred, Gilbert Rd (3); Drake Rd (8). Chingford (196-266) nests in 10 x 0.5km squares. Grays, Southend Rd (1). Highams Park, Coolgardie Ave to station (3). Chafford Hundred, Drake Rd, 97 on Feb 1st. Grays: Blackshots Lane, 102 on Dec 18th; Whitehall Lane Allotments, 82 on Nov 4th. Orsett Hospital, 100 on Jan 21st. Thurrock Rugby Club, 88 on Sept 23rd. Walthamstow, Gosport Rd area, 62 on Apr 5th.
- Herts N. Mymms Park (1+). Ridge, 20+ fledged juv on July 27th. Cheshunt, 50 at roost on Feb 1st. Potters Bar, 33 on Nov 2nd. Welham Green, 50 incl juv on July 20th.
- Middx Alexandra Park, bred. Stoke Newington Res (15). Edmonton, nr Cemetery, 19 on Apr 7th. Hampton, 21 on June 26th. Lake Farm CP, 24 on July 12th R. Crane Corridor, Gun Club, 50 on June 27th. Stanwell village, common all year. Heathrow Airport, one inside Terminal One on Dec 27th!
- Kent Bexley, 40 in a garden Nov-Dec.
- Surrey Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (10). Nesting was reported from houses & gardens in Cobham, Esher, Surbiton, Sutton and Tolworth Brook. Beddington SF, 48 on Aug 1st. Kingston Cemetery, 20 on Jan 27th. Upper Norwood, Holmesdale Rd, 32 on July 1st. Pollards Hill S, Norbury, 39 on Feb 1st. Tooting Common, 20 on Nov 18th.
- In Lond New Covent Garden Market (1) pair nested raising three young. Tower of London, seven visiting possible nest sites on Apr 4th. The Barbican, five on July 26th. London Zoo, bred. Lavender Pond, Rotherhithe, 12 on Sept 28th. Regent's Park, seen on several dates near St Mark's Bridge.

**1598 Tree Sparrow *Passer montana***

Status: scarce breeding resident, confined to a few sites in LNHS Area; UK population recovering, following severe decline since the late 1970s.

Beddington SF continues to be the prime site for this species in the LNHS Area, thanks to the work of the Beddington Farm Bird Group. However, numbers were well down on last year, with 77 territories and a peak count of 93 in January (cf 135 territories and peak of 166 in 2007). Breeding was also reported in the area around Tyttenhanger GP in Herts, where the colony is maintained by Herts Bird Club; 16 pairs nested successfully with 65 young fledged. Tree Sparrows have begun to appear at garden bird feeders in Cuffley and Potters Bar, Herts.

- Essex Ingrebourne Valley, one on Nov 14th and Dec 6th & 8th. Rainham Marshes, two on Aug 27th and one on Nov 12th.

- Herts Tyttenhanger GP area (16), recorded throughout year, bred; 18 on Jan 20th, up to 26 in Nov. Cuffley, two on a bird feeder on Mar 9th. Potters Bar, ten on Feb 23rd, two on a feeder on Oct 7th and two on Dec 5th.
- Bucks Arthur Jacob NR, two on Mar 24th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, present throughout year, 77 territories, peaks of 93 on Jan 1st and 85 on Oct 1st. Selsdon, one on a bird feeder on July 30th.

**1636 Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs***

Status: common breeding resident, augmented by continental influxes in autumn and winter.

Although common throughout our Area, very few breeding records for the Chaffinch were received. More are requested, especially in the built up area. The BBS indicates a steady increase in London since 1994, which is encouraging, especially as the upward trend seems to be substantially sharper than that for the UK as a whole over the same period.

The highest numbers were seen during January, including flocks of up to 2,000 at Canon's Farm, Banstead, and then during the autumn passage, eg, 1,075 flying W/NW over the London Wetland Centre on Oct 18th and 240 flying W, NW and SW over Richmond Park on Oct 19th.

The notes below list breeding information for sites with two or more pairs (nos. of singing males/territories in brackets) followed by peak counts of 60 or more (ten within the London boroughs) and all records for Inner London.

- Essex Belhus Woods (3). Grays, Grays Cemetery (2); Hangmans Wood (3). Highams Park Lake (6). Orsett (6). Belhus Woods CP, 11 on Feb 10th. Harold Hill, Duck Wood, 150 on Jan 27th. Rainham, 310 on Jan 28th. Walthamstow Res, 65 on Apr 25th. West Ham Park, 17 on Oct 17th.
- Herts Rye Meads (40). Potters Crouch, Bedmond, 150 on Mar 17th. Essendon, 59 on Oct 18th. N. Mymms Park, 60 on Oct 11th. Panshanger Park, 150 on Jan 25th. Woodhall Farm, 150 on Mar 8th. Tyttenhanger GP, 110 on Dec 25th. Wildhill, 75 on Dec 31st.
- Middx Alexandra Park, bred; 89 on Nov 1st. The Paddock LNR (2). Tottenham Marsh (17). Brent Res, 34 on Oct 11th. Enfield: Park Farm, 100 on Oct 20th; Vicarage Farm, 13 on Dec 17th. Lake Farm CP, 22 on Oct 13th-14th. Northwood, 16 in a garden on Jan 27th. Staines Res, 508 flew W on Oct 20th. Stoke Newington, 79 flew over on Oct 30th. Trent Park, 38 on Feb 16th.
- Kent Crossness, 25 flew over on Oct 25th. Greenwich Park, 80 flew over on Oct 9th. Northfleet, 50 on Oct 18th. Sidcup, Riverside Rd, 30 on Dec 5th & 8th.
- Surrey Beddington SF (3); 212 flew W on Oct 18th. Esher: Esher Common (2); The Ledges (9). Molesey Heath (9). Richmond Park (21); 240 flew W, NW and SW on Oct 19th. Canon's Farm, 1,000+ on several dates in Jan, max 2,000 on Jan 8th. Croydon, seen in 91% of gardens (RSPB Croydon Group survey). Holmethorpe SP, 60 on Jan 25th. Kew Gardens, 30 on Mar 1st. London Wetland Centre, 1,075 flew over W/NW on Oct 18th.
- In Lond Hyde Park, five on Jan 1st. Regent's Park, 220 flew over during October.

- 1638 Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*  
 Status: regular autumn migrant and winter visitor, sometimes in large numbers.
- As usual, some large winter foraging flocks were reported in the outer parts of the LNHS Area, including 1,200 at Canon's Farm, Surrey in January, and up to 200 in February at Hertingfordbury, Herts. A fortunate bird-watcher at Hatfield Garden Village welcomed Bramblings to his garden bird feeders regularly from Jan-Mar, and again at the end of the year. The last sighting of the first winter period was at Potters Bar on Apr 24th and the first of the autumn was one flying over the London Wetland Centre on Sept 19th.
- The notes below list the highest counts (of five or more birds) in each winter period, together with other records of interest and all records for sites within the built up area.
- Essex Harold Hill, 12 on Mar 14th. Pyrgo Park, eight on Jan 23rd. Rainham Marshes, five on Oct 29th. Romford, seven on Apr 3rd. Upminster, ten on Mar 18th. Woodford Green, five on Mar 17th.
- Herts Birch Green, 30 on Jan 23rd. Brookmans Park, seen regularly in a garden from Feb-Apr, 12 on Apr 12th. Hatfield Garden Village, seen regularly in a garden from Jan-Mar, 20 on Feb 6th. Hertingfordbury, 200 on Feb 23rd. Letty Green, 30 on Feb 4th. N. Mymms Park, six on Apr 12th. Panshanger Stables, 70 on Feb 4th. Potters Bar, seen regularly in Feb-Mar, 31 on Apr 5th. Potters Crouch, six on Mar 17th. Redwell Wood Farm, six on Apr 12th. Swanley Bar, six on Apr 4th. West Hyde, 30 on Feb 2nd. Woodhall Farm, six on Mar 8th.
- Middx Abney Park Cemetery, eight on Mar 26th. Alexandra Park, three on Jan 15th and Feb 12th. Brent Res, two on Oct 25th. Stoke Newington Res, five on Mar 19th. Trent Park, three on Jan 16th.
- Kent Greenwich Park, three on Oct 7th. Joyce Green Hospital, five on Feb 2nd. Joyden's Wood, ten on Feb 18th. Sidcup, three on Nov 14th.
- Surrey Addington Hills, three on Feb 12th. Canon's Farm, large flocks in Jan-Apr, 1,200 on Jan 20th, five on Dec 2nd. Carshalton, Park Hill, eight on Mar 23rd. Croydon: four on Apr 15th; Park Hill Park (S. Croydon), two on Jan 1st. Littleheath Woods, five on Nov 2nd & 4th. London Wetland Centre, five on Nov 2nd & 4th. Wimbledon Common, two on Oct 6th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, one on Jan 1st, 60 on Mar 31st and seven on Sept 28th.

- 1640 Serin** *Serinus serinus*  
 Status: rare vagrant.

This species had not been seen since a single bird at Sidcup in 2002, so up to seven at Rainham is a remarkable find. There were seven records in the 1990s, five in the 1980s and two in the 1970s.

- Essex Rainham Marshes, 1-3 seen almost daily from Oct 22nd-Dec 6th then Dec 22nd-31st, with seven (a male and six imm/fem) on Nov 13th (mo).

1649

**Greenfinch***Carduelis chloris*

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

Very few breeding records and somewhat fewer records generally were received for Greenfinch in 2008. Whether this reflects a decline in number, perhaps due to the disease, *Trichomonosis*, which has affected this species particularly since 2005, or is mainly due to reduced recording, is hard to say. The BBS indicates a sharp decline in London since 2006. However, for the very few sites where we have repeated breeding counts, some eg Beddington and Molesey Heath, had higher numbers than last year, though others, eg Rye Meads were a little lower than 2007.

In the notes below, breeding data for sites with three or more pairs (no. of pairs or singing males in brackets) are followed by peak counts of 20+ birds (two or more pairs and lower counts included within the London boroughs).

- Essex Belhus Woods (2). Grays (2-3), 15 juv on Aug 31st; 21 on Dec 1st. Mar Dyke Valley, Davy Down (5). Dagenham Chase, 26 on Jan 16th. Fairlop Waters, 20 on Oct 22nd. Highams Park Lake, 28 on Dec 18th. Rainham Marshes: 87 on Jan 28th; 120 on Oct 26th. West Ham Park, 1-2 throughout year, six on Oct 12th.
- Herts Rye Meads (10); 35 on Oct 4th. Beech Farm, 22 on Mar 21st. Hatfield, 30 on Nov 29th. Watford north, 30 in roost gathering on Jan 13th and Dec 9th. Tyttenhanger, 25 on Nov 8th.
- Middx Alexandra Park, bred. The Paddock LNR (2). Tottenham Marsh (5). Lake Farm CP, 11 on Nov 1st and Dec 6th. Trent Park, 22 in pre-roost gathering on Dec 29th. Vicarage Farm, 14 on Aug 26th.
- Kent Sutton at Hone, 23 on Mar 20th.
- Surrey Beddington SF (24); nine on Feb 17th, 20 on Oct 19th. London Wetland Centre (1-2) bred nearby; 37 on Jan 30th; 149 o/h on Oct 6th. Molesey Heath (33). Richmond Park (34) on Apr 1st. Clapham Common, 20, in a hospice garden, on Sept 11th. Croydon, seen in 90% of gardens in RSPB survey. Fishponds LNR, ten on Sept 18th. Heavers Meadow, 20 on Dec 31st. R. Hogsmilt, six splashing in stream on Aug 31st! Trevereux, 80 on Jan 2nd.

1653

**Goldfinch***Carduelis carduelis*

Status: breeding resident and passage migrant, now common throughout the year.

Now a far more common bird than in the past, the Goldfinch has become a familiar visitor to garden seed feeders. The BBS confirms a steady increase in London since 2001. The highest counts were recorded in autumn and winter, topped by a winter flock of c. 400 at Holmethorpe SP on Jan 9th, with 380 at Rainham on Oct 26th and over 100 at the London Wetland Centre on several dates in October.



The notes below summarise breeding records (no. of nests/singing males in brackets) followed by peak counts of 50 or more birds (30+ within the London boroughs).

- Essex Belhus Woods CP (1). Chafford Hundred (1). Grays (1). Mar Dyke Valley (1). Dagenham Chase, 40 on Aug 26th. Gunpowder Park, 50 on Dec 22nd. Hall Marsh, 100 on Feb 16th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 50 on Oct 12th. KGV Res, 100 on Jan 25th. Rainham, 120 on Jan 28th; 380 on Oct 26th. Walthamstow Res, 31 on Mar 26th.
- Herts Cheshunt (1). Rickmansworth (1). Rye Meads (2). Watford (3). Cole Green Tip, 70 on Oct 4th. Elstree Aerodrome, 50 on Aug 26th. Hilfield Park Res, 80 on Sept 6th.
- Middx Bushy Park, 80 on Sept 9th. Enfield: Park Farm, ten incl at least seven juv on Aug 6th, 24 on Aug 7th; Vicarage Farm, 30 on Nov 9th & 22nd. Lake Farm CP, 38 on Sept 7th. Tottenham Marsh, 40 on Aug 22nd.
- Kent Crossness, 100 on Sept 10th. Crossness S. Marsh, 80 on Aug 2nd. Foots Cray Woods, 32 on Dec 25th.
- Surrey Beddington SF (1); 106 on Dec 1st. Esher (1). Kingston (1). Molesey Heath (2). Richmond Park (1), 60 on July 28th. Thames Ditton (1). Holmethorpe SP, 400 on Jan 9th. London Wetland Centre, 122 on Oct 28th. S. Norwood Lake, 30 on Oct 22nd and Nov 8th.
- In Lond Lambeth, Spring Park Gdns, two singing on Feb 20th. Regent's Park (3); six on May 1st, 44 on Oct 1st.

**1654 Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*  
 Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant, increasingly regular in summer and a potential breeding species.

As usual, some large winter flocks were reported, with the highest counts in Nov-Dec and Jan-Feb. Notable counts included 350 at Cornmill Meadows on Dec 24th, 160 at Sevenoaks WR on Jan 9th, and, further into London, 50 in Valentines Park, Ilford, in December and 40 at King George's Park, Wandsworth in January.

Two unusual records were a male showing courtship behaviour (feeding a female) at Alexandra Park on Mar 15th, and a bird present towards the end of the breeding season, on July 18th, at Northaw Great Wood. Several observers in the outer parts of our Area reported Siskin at garden bird feeders; a generous gardener at Kingswood Way, Croydon, supplied a total of 15kg of Niger seed to his garden guests, which included up to 45 Siskin.

The notes below record peak counts for each winter period of 50 or more birds (20+ within the London boroughs) and other notable sightings.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP, 50 on Dec 14th. Bedfords Park, 30 on Apr 5th. Cornmill Meadows, 150 on Jan 31st; 350 on Dec 24th. Epping Forest, High Beach, 80 on Sept 10th. Fairlop Waters, 30 on Sept 9th. Fishers Green Island, 100 on Jan 4th & 13th. Valentines Park, 50 on Dec 15th.

- Herts Brookmans Park, 64 on Mar 5th. Cassiobury Park, 50 on Dec 8th. Colney Heath, 100 on Sept 30th. Croxley Hall GP, 100 on Dec 20th. Hertford Heath, 100 on Mar 16th. Maple Lodge NR, 100 on Jan 7th, Nov 6th and Dec 12th. Northaw Great Wood, one on July 18th. Seventy Acres Lake, 80 on Dec 27th. Stanborough Lakes, 50 on Jan 4th. Stocker's Farm, 68 on Jan 21st. Stocker's Lake, 100 on Jan 13th, Dec 15th & 18th. Tyttenhanger GP, 50 on Jan 9th, 100 on Sept 30th.
- Middx Alexandra Park, ten on Mar 15th incl a male feeding a fem; a male still present here or nearby streets to May 11th; the bird shown in the photograph was ringed on Apr 27th. Brent Res, 30 on Jan 17th. Bushy Park, 60 on Dec 14th. Grovelands Park, 40 on Dec 14th. Trent Park, 50 on Dec 15th. Whitewebbs Wood, 30 on Jan 13th.
- Kent Foots Cray Meadows, 50 on Nov 20th. Sevenoaks WR, 160 on Jan 9th, 150 on Dec 14th.
- Surrey Canon's Farm, 100 on Jan 21st. Croydon, reported from 26% of 101 gardens (RSPB Croydon Group). Gatton Park Lake, 50 on Dec 14th. Holmethorpe SP, 60 on Dec 30th. King George's Park, Wandsworth, 40 on Jan 25th. London Wetland Centre, 68 on Jan 30th, 130 on Oct 20th. Richmond Park, 60 on Jan 16th; 80 on Sept 30th. The Ledges, Esher, 50 on Dec 26th. Wandsworth Common, 50 on Dec 28th. Wimbledon Common, 70 on Mar 6th.
- In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, seven on Jan 1st. Regent's Park, peaks of eight on Jan 26th and 19 on Oct 23rd.

**1660 Linnets** *Carduelis cannabina*  
 Status: breeding resident and common winter visitor.

Linnets were reported from only 20 sites during the breeding season this year, with very few confirmed breeding records. This could reflect a further fall in breeding numbers, or a lack of recording, so more breeding records would be appreciated. As highlighted last year, the Linnets are red listed as a Species of Conservation Concern, reflecting a decline nationally of >50% since 1969. In welcome contrast, some high counts were recorded in the autumn and winter, topped by 580 at Rainham on Oct 26th.

Breeding records (nos. of pairs in brackets) where three or more pairs/territories were found (and all breeding records within the London boroughs) are given below, followed by peak counts of 50 or more birds in each winter period (10+ within the London boroughs).

- Essex Mar Dyke Valley, Davy Down (3). Upshire (3). Bumbles Green, 100 on Sept 18th. Dagenham Chase, 46 on Dec 15th. Fairlop Waters, ten on Sept 30th. Havering, 50 on Feb 15th. Ingrebourne Valley, 65 on Feb 16th, 100 on Nov 11th, Dec 28th & 31st. Pyrgo Park, 25 on Feb 16th. Rainham Marshes, 400 on Jan 28th, 580 on Oct 26th. Thames Barrier Park, 11 on Sept 11th. W. Thurrock Marshes, 55 on Feb 21st and Mar 21st; 80 on Sept 6th.
- Herts Pangshanger Park, 60 on Apr 6th. Tyttenhanger GP, 50 on Dec 25th. Woodoaks Farm, 50 on Dec 1st.
- Middx Lake Farm CP (2). Enfield: Parkside Farm (1), 80 on Apr 8th; Vicarage Farm (1+), 30 on Mar 28th. Alexandra Park, 12 on Oct 25th. Stanwell Moor, 80 on Feb 17th. Tottenham Marsh, 100 on Jan 26th.



- Kent College Farm, Bexley, 25 on Nov 15th and Dec 8th. Cornmill Gdns Lewisham, 35 on Nov 14th. Crossness, 20 on Aug 2nd. Sidcup, Riverside Rd, 20 on Dec 5th. Swanscombe Marsh, 100 on Oct 18th.
- Surrey Beddington SF (1), 28 on Jan 1st, 70 on Dec 22nd. Epsom Common (3). Riddlesdown (2). Canon's Farm, 200 on Jan 5th, 250 on Oct 27th. Holmethorpe SP, 200 on Jan 29th, 80 on Oct 13th. S. Norwood CP, 30 on Mar 22nd. Walton Res, 80 on Jan 14th and Feb 20th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, three on Apr 4th, six on 21st, and two on Nov 12th.

**1662 Twite** *Carduelis flavirostris*  
 Status: scarce, late autumn and winter visitor.

Only one report was received this year, from Rainham as in 2007.

- Essex Rainham Marshes, two on Oct 26th then singles on eight dates from Nov 2nd-27th (VaH *et al*).

**1663 Lesser Redpoll** *Carduelis cabaret*  
 Status: former breeding resident, now a passage migrant and winter visitor.

Now occurring mainly as a passage migrant and winter visitor, only three sightings of this small finch were reported between late April and early September. However, considerably more records were received overall in 2008 than 2007, with double-figure counts at 36 sites. Some impressive flocks of 100+ were found at Thorndon CP in Nov-Dec, peaking at c.400 on Dec 1st, often including a mix of Lesser and Common/Mealy Redpoll.

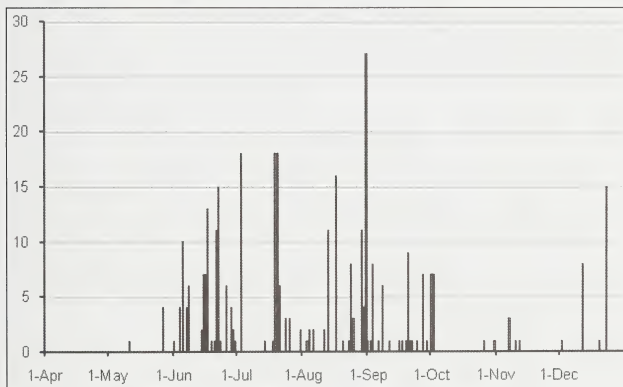
Maximum counts of 20 or more birds (ten within the London boroughs) are given below, along with all breeding season sightings and all records for Inner London. NB This data includes records submitted as "Redpoll" or "Redpoll sp" and observers are requested to be more specific if possible.

- Essex Barking, Longbridge Rd, up to nine on eight dates in Jan-Feb. Bedfords Park, 30 on Nov 6th. Chafford Hundred, 32 on Dec 6th. Chingford, 15 in a garden on Dec 11th. Epping Forest, Trueloves, one flew SE on May 1st. Fairlop Waters, 20 on Dec 22nd. Leyton Flats, 40 on Dec 8th. Ongar Park Wood, a pair on May 5th. Orsett, 23 on Dec 24th. Rainham Marshes, 50 on Oct 17th. Raphael Park, 18 on Dec 10th. Thorndon CP, 400 on Nov 5th and Dec 1st. Walthamstow, St Mary's Churchyard, 13 on Jan 20th.
- Herts Broxbourne Woods, 50 on Nov 23rd. Carneles Green, 40 on Nov 23rd.
- Middx Alexandra Park, regular visitor, 15 on Oct 21st; the bird in the photograph was at a bird feeder at Lansdowne Rd nearby on Mar 18th. Brent Res, ten on Oct 4th. Trent Park, 40 on Dec 16th. Vicarage Farm, 17 on Nov 6th.
- Kent Foots Cray Meadows, 15 on Oct 6th.
- Surrey Banstead, 150 on Nov 30th. Beddington SF, eight on Oct 29th. Croydon (south) up to 12 in a garden on Dec 1st & 15th. Esher, West End Common, 40 on Dec 16th. London Wetland Centre, regular spring/autumn visitor in small nos.; one flew W on May 27th; 35 on Oct 6th. Richmond Park, 35 on Dec 27th. Wandsworth Common, ten on Dec 10th. Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath, 25 on Oct 6th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, singles on five dates in Jan-Apr, two on Oct 16th & 23rd.

- 1663.1 Mealy Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea*  
 Status: scarce, irruptive winter visitor.
- A total of 40 sightings of the continental species were recorded, many amongst flocks of Lesser Redpoll. Birds were found at 11 sites, but by far the most were at Thorndon CP in early December.
- Essex Chafford Hundred, singles on Oct 11th & 23rd, Nov 26th and Dec 1st. Leyton Flats, one on Dec 8th. Rainham Marshes, one on Nov 11th. Thorndon CP, first noted amongst the Lesser Redpoll flock on Nov 7th; by Nov 9th, 16 were considered to be of this form; on Dec 1st the original observer considered that most of the 200-300 redpolls he was watching were Meales and on Dec 6th another observer reported c. 60 amongst a large redpoll flock. Hence it appears that an exceptionally high number were present at this time. Wanstead, one on Mar 10th.
- Herts Northaw Great Wood, five on Jan 19th, Tyttenhanger GP, two on Feb 26th.  
 Middx Alexandra Park, three on Feb 3rd & 10th (also on 10th in a nearby street), two on 16th & 21st, and one on Mar 15th.
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, up to three on several dates in Jan/Feb, two on Oct 17th and one on Nov 26th. Richmond Park, one on Dec 27th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, two on Apr 23rd.
- 1664 Arctic Redpoll** *Carduelis hornemanni*  
 Status: very scarce, irruptive visitor.
- Essex Thorndon CP, a single individual amongst a flock of other redpolls on Dec 1st, identified as the ssp *exilipes*, Coue's Arctic Redpoll (SmJ).
- 1666 Common Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*  
 Status: irruptive visitor, rare breeding species (usually following irruptions).
- In contrast to 2007, when only nine birds were seen, 2008 had records from over 50 localities, with double figure flocks seen at, or flying over, 11 sites. The graph opposite shows the build-up from early May, beginning with a single bird flying over Banstead on May 11th, followed by four over Cassiobury Park on 27th. The majority of sightings came in June-Sept, with peaks of 18 flying over Woldingham and Westerham on July 18th and an intriguing record of two groups, totalling 18 birds, over Wimbledon's All England Tennis Club, on July 3rd - semi-finals day! During this period almost half of the records were of birds moving over the area rather than pausing to rest or feed below. The largest flock was 27 at N. Mymms Park on Aug 31st. Numbers tailed off from early October, with the last sighting of 15 birds at Joydens Wood on Dec 23rd. Records of two or more birds and all records for Inner London are listed below.
- Essex Chafford Hundred, five on June 6th and 11 on Aug 29th. Dagenham, three on July 26th. Dagenham Chase, six on Sept 8th. Fairlop Waters, eight on Aug 24th. Grays, five o/h on June 21st. Hornchurch, three on July 20th. Ingrebourne Valley, six on July 21st. Rainham Marshes, two on July 31st. Thorndon CP, 11 on June 21st, 15 on 22nd and three on Nov 7th. Warley, ten on June 5th. Weald Park, four on June 7th.

- Herts** Brookmans Park, six o/h on June 26th. Cassiobury Park, four flying N on May 27th. Hatfield Park, six on June 8th and seven on 16th. Hertingfordbury, three on June 15th. Hilfield Park Res, two on June 29th. N. Mymms Park, 16 on Aug 17th, 27 on 31st, eight on Sept 3rd & nine on 20th. Northaw Great Wood, four on June 28th. Oxhey, four on Aug 30th. Woodside, seven on June 15th.
- Middx** Hounslow, 13 flying W on June 17th. Tottenham Marsh, two on Aug 11th. Trent Park, two on Aug 6th, seven on Oct 1st-2nd.
- Kent** Chipstead Lake, 15 on Aug 17th. Joyden's Wood, eight on Dec 12th & 15 on 23rd. Northfleet, eight flew W on June 21st. Sevenoaks, four o/h on June 4th. Westerham, two on June 14th; 18 flying S on July 19th.
- Surrey** Banstead, one flew N on May 11th. Beddington SF, two on Aug 4th. Sanderstead, three on Aug 25th. Warlingham, 11 flew W on Aug 13th. Wimbledon, 18 flying over AELTC on July 3rd. Woldingham, 18 flew S on July 20th, 11 flew W on Aug 13th.
- In Lond** Regent's Park, one on July 14th, three on 24th, one on Sept 1st, 11th and 16th; seven flew W on Sept 27th.

**Crossbill 2008, all records LNHS Area.** Each bar represent the highest count at, or flying over, one site on one day



**1710 Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*  
 Status: breeding resident and fairly common winter visitor.

The majority of our records tend to be during the winter period, as the Bullfinch is inclined to "disappear" during the breeding season, reflecting its secretive nature. Only seven confirmed breeding pairs were reported, though pairs were seen during the breeding season from a further 31 sites but without clear signs of breeding. The majority of the records are of individuals or pairs, but there were also a few family groups.

In the notes below, the number of pairs is given (in brackets) for sites with two or more pairs, followed by the highest counts of six or more birds and other records of interest (within the London boroughs, all possible breeding pairs and counts of two or more are given, reflecting the scarcity of Bullfinch in this area).

- Essex Bedfords Park, six juv on Aug 28th and Sept 5th. Cornmill Meadows, nine on Dec 18th. Ingrebourne Valley, up to three throughout year.
- Herts Hertford Heath, Balls Wood (1), a pair with at least three young on Aug 4th. Rickmansworth, Highfield Way, bred, young seen in June and July, 11 on Nov 8th incl three juvs. Ridge (1+), young seen on July 27th. Rye Meads (4). S. Mimms, four incl recently fledged young on June 30th. Cassiobury Park, six on Feb 2nd. Great Wood CP, seven on July 12th. Millward's Park, seven on Dec 20th. Salisbury Hall Farm, six on Nov 9th.
- Middx Brent Res (1) one territory, no young seen. Enfield: Park Farm (1), three on Mar 5th; Parkside Farm (1); Vicarage Farm, three juv on Sept 3rd. Trent Park (2). Forty Hall, three on June 11th. Grovelands Park, two on Dec 14th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, seven trapped by ringers during August.
- Kent Crossness, four on Nov 8th. Sevenoaks WR, six on Nov 26th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, two on Jan 20th & 27th. Bookham Common, eight on Dec 17th. Carshalton Beeches, three on Dec 12th. Croydon, seen in 23% of gardens (RSPB Croydon Group). Tolworth Court Farm, two on Feb 4th. Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath, declining, a pair may have bred.

**1717 Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes***  
 Status: very scarce breeding resident and occasional passage migrant.

It is good to report an increase in records in 2008, involving a minimum of 24 individuals at a total of 11 sites. Encouragingly, a pair was confirmed as breeding in the LNHS Area for the first time since 2000, and a bird was seen during the breeding season at a further Herts site. Singles were reported from both Kent and Middx, after a blank year in 2007, with birds as far into town as Alexandra Park and Brent Res. A notable flock built up at Bookham Common, with a peak count of nine birds on Christmas Eve. All records are listed.

- Essex Hainault Forest CP, one on Jan 31st (RiP). South Woodford, one on Jan 27th (MuK). Woodford Green, a male on Mar 22nd and Apr 23rd (MuK).
- Herts Amwell GP, one flew W on Oct 11th (ReB). Bencroft Wood, two on Feb 24th (BaH). Site A, family group of five on June 5th (GoG). Site B, one on June 5th and Nov 26th (GoG; SmKW).
- Middx Alexandra Park, one on Apr 4th (GiA). Brent Res, one on Nov 1st (FiS).
- Kent Crossness, one flying E with Fieldfares on Nov 30th (ArJK).
- Surrey Bookham Common, singles on Dec 9th & 10th, then seven on 15th, one on 17th, nine on 24th, two on 26th & one on 27th (SpSJ; PrAD; BG; WiJPP; PrAD; CaD; BG).

**1847 Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus***  
 Status: rare, but annual, autumn and winter visitor.

The record below represents the eighth record this century and the first in January, as six of the other records came in October and one in November.

Essex Rainham Marshes NR, singles along the foreshore on Jan 2nd & 5th, presumed to be the same bird (WoR, BrD *et al*).

**1850 Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*  
Status: scarce autumn and winter visitor.

Two sightings reported, both on typical dates, at Rainham where the species is now reported annually.

Essex Rainham Marshes NR, singles on Nov 4th-6th & 18th (SmD *et al*).

**1857 Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*  
Status: widespread but declining breeding resident, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

At least 73 territories/singing males were reported this year, a significant increase on 2007, and similar to 2006. Some excellent survey work in Herts revealed a total of 52 territories. In Middx, birds were found on six farms in the Enfield area, with three territories identified, though extremely scarce elsewhere. The figures from Essex are down on last year and it is to be hoped that this mainly reflects under-recording. Figures from Surrey also remained low and just a single record was received from Bucks.

Overall, the records suggest a continued downward trend, though this disappointment was countered by a welcome three figure flock at Ridlands in the winter of 2007-8 (its highest count since 1988). The decline at Linsfield Chart reflects a loss of heathland to woodland habitat.

The notes below list all breeding records (no. of pairs, singing males or territories in brackets), followed by maximum counts for sites with 15 or more birds, except for Middx, Bucks, Kent and Inner London, where the species' scarcity merits mention of all records.

Essex Epping Forest, Copped Hall (1). Netherhouse Farm (2-3). Pages Wood (1). Waltham Abbey, Breach Barns (3). Gt Warley, 28 on Feb 9th. Ingrebourne Valley, 30 on Jan 20th and 60 on Nov 30th. Priors GC, 16 on Jan 18th.

Herts Bedmond (10). Berrybushes Wood (6). Bricket Wood Common (5). Buck's Hill, Watford (2). Chiswell Green (4). Colney Heath (1). Colney Street (4). Garston (1). Letchmore Heath (2). Merry Hill (1). Nashes Farm (2). Old Parkbury (1). Potters Crouch (7); 35 on Mar 5th. Radlett (1). Shenleybury (3). Tyttenhanger GP (1); 17 on Jan 22nd, 23 on Dec 25th. Brookmans Park, 24 on Nov 1st. North Mymms, 22+ on Dec 7th. Rye Meads, 30 on Feb 16th; 60 on Dec 6th. Tyttenhanger Farm, 20 on Nov 28th and Dec 24th.

Middx Brent Res, one on Dec 20th. Enfield: Brayside Farm, one on Jan 28th; Ferny Hill Farm, nine on Jan 29th, three on Feb 23rd and one on Apr 9th; Park Farm, a male on seven dates from Mar 13th-Apr 20th and a female on Apr 14th; Parkside Farm (1); Plumridge Farm, one on Aug 24th; Vicarage Farm (2), seen all year, 13+ on Feb 14th. Trent Park, four on Feb 23rd, one on Nov 2nd.

Bucks Tatling End, a pair on Apr 14th.  
 Kent Kemsing, 26 on Nov 27th. Sevenoaks WR, peak of 18 on Jan 30th.  
 Surrey Epsom Common (3). Holmethorpe SP (2), bred, two juvs on Sept 11th; 18 on Jan 29th and 25 on Nov 25th and Dec 19th-20th. Limpsfield Chart (3). Riddlesdown (2). Rushett Farm (1), 11 on Feb 16th and 30 on Oct 14th. Canon's Farm, 15 on Mar 24th and 20 on Nov 16th. Ridlands, 100 on Jan 20th. Warlingham, 40 on Mar 17th.

**1866 Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana*  
 Status: rare vagrant.

Seen for the second consecutive year, representing the 23rd record for London (bringing the total to 24 birds).

Essex Rainham Marshes NR, an adult male in the Cordite area on Aug 30th was photographed, but sadly only seen for about 15 minutes from 10:30 by five lucky observers (BrD *et al*).

**1877 Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*  
 Status: fairly common, but declining breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

A total of c.198 singing males/territories was recorded, which seems to reflect a continuing downward trend (271 in 2005, 270 in 2006, 216 in 2007), though it is unclear how far these figures reflect different levels of recording. Essex and Herts appeared to be poorly surveyed, yet between them still provided 75% of the records. In Middx and Kent, c.21 and seven pairs respectively were found, compared with 39 pairs each in 2007.

The notes below give details of breeding pairs/singing males/territories for sites with two or more pairs (nos. in brackets), followed by peak counts of 15 or more birds and all records for Middx and the London boroughs.

Essex Belhus Woods CP (4). Cornmill Meadows (10+). Dagenham Chase (1). Fairlop Waters (12). Rainham Marshes (c.25); 22 on Feb 5th, 30 on July 2nd and Oct 26th. Tylers Common (2). Walthamstow Res (3). Waterworks NR (1). Weald Park (2). W. Thurrock Marshes (2). Ingrebourne Valley, 20 on Jan 20th, 100 on Dec 6th. Warley CP, 20 on Jan 31st.

Herts Amwell GP (6), 16 on Dec 22nd. Beech Farm GP (3). Croxley Moor (4+). Rye Meads RSPB (21), 20 on Dec 24th. Seventy Acres Lake (1+), three fledglings seen. Sopwell Mill (2). Tyttenhanger GP (4+). Panshanger Park, 50 on Feb 18th.

Middx Brent Res (2), three on Mar 8th. Bushy Park (6). Enfield: Ferny Hill Farm, a male on July 4th; Parkside Farm, singles on Mar 18th and Apr 16th; Vicarage Farm (1), three on Jan 16th. Lake Farm CP (2), 12 on Aug 31st. Springwell Reedbed (6+). Stoke Newington Res (2). Tottenham Marsh (4). Alexandra Park, singles on Mar 13th, Aug 25th, Oct 18th and Nov 2nd. Rammey Marsh, one on Jan 29th. Staines Moor, eight on Jan 1st and two on Dec 7th. Staines Res, two on Aug 18th, three on Sept 6th and one on Nov 15th.



- Bucks Arthur Jacob NR, two on June 22nd. Wraysbury GP, ten ringed in Sept.  
 Kent Dartford Marshes (3). Swanscombe Marsh (4), 18 on Oct 18th. Crossness, 12 on Oct 11th.
- Surrey Beddington SF (4). Hersham GP (3). London Wetland Centre (8); 13 on Mar 3rd and 12 on Oct 6th. Morden Hall Park, juv on June 21st. Richmond Park (18), 20 on Sept 6th. S. Norwood CP (1). Spencer Rd Wetland (1). Walton Res (Chelsea/Lambeth) (2). Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath (2).
- In Lond Regent's Park (2), singing males on Mar 13th & 24th but, failing to attract mates, departed by June 23rd; singles on Sept 14th and Oct 12th.

**1882 Corn Bunting***Emberiza calandra*

Status: declining and increasingly localised breeding resident.

Reported from just seven sites, with only one confirmed breeding record, which makes it seem increasingly likely that the Corn Bunting will become extinct as a breeding bird in the London Area in the foreseeable future. (cf 2007, eight territories, though not all held throughout the summer). Against this gloomy forecast, however, one can but hope that a few breeding pairs hold on undiscovered in tracts of less-studied farmland.

Once again, a majority of the records came from Essex (including regular sightings at Rainham in Jan-April and Nov-Dec). The only record from the rest of the London Area was a single sighting in Kent, near the Bluewater shopping complex!

- Essex Orsett: Grey Goose Farm (1), three on July 25th; Green Lane, one on July 10th. Dagenham Chase, one on Apr 23rd. Fairlop Waters, two on June 11th. Hornchurch CP, one with Yellowhammers on Dec 9th. Rainham Marshes NR, seen on 17 dates from Jan 1st-Apr 26th, with five on six dates and six on Jan 4th; then seen on ten dates between Nov 4th and Dec 29th with max of six from Dec 25th-29th.
- Kent Bluewater area (1) on May 25th.



## Appendix I: Escapes

The following records relate to birds known, or presumed to be, of captive origin. In addition to those listed, there are some fully-winged individuals of several species of wildfowl in collections such as at St James's Park and Bushy Park.

	<b>Black Swan</b>	<i>Cygnus atratus</i>
Essex	Walthamstow Res, one on June 8th-26th and July 1st-20th. Brentwood, one on Jan 28th. Mayesbrook Park, one on Jan 30th. Ingrebourne Valley, one on Mar 20th. Rainham Marshes, two on May 23rd-25th and June 4th.	
Herts	Cheshunt GPs, 1-2 throughout year. Cassiobury Park, one o/h on Feb 8th.	
Middx	Littleton GP, one on Sept 17th.	
Kent	Southmere Lake, one on Dec 14th.	
Surrey	QEII Res, one on Aug 24th-Sept 10th. R. Thames (Queens Promenade), one on Jan 2nd and Oct 11th. Walton Res, one on Aug 19th.	
	<b>Swan Goose</b>	<i>Anser cygnoides</i>
Herts	Lynsters Farm, 1-2 on July 28th, then four dates in Oct, and Nov 1st-18th.	
	Lynsters GP, 1-2 on July 28th and Oct 1st, presumably the same birds.	
Kent	Northfleet, one on Feb 29th, Mar 4th and 21st and Nov 8th.	
<b>0159</b>	<b>White-fronted Goose</b>	<i>Anser albifrons</i>
Surrey	Holmethorpe SP, one, first winter, thought to be feral, on many days from Feb 11th to May 31st.	
In Lond	Kensington Gdns, one with Greylag Goose on Jan 1st, 4th & 5th.	
	<b>Bar-headed Goose</b>	<i>Anser indicus</i>
Essex	Fishers Green Island, one Dec 14th.	
Herts	Hatfield Park, two on Mar 8th and one on May 21st. Hatfield, two on Jan 20th, seven on May 25th, four on Dec 14th.	
<b>0163</b>	<b>Snow Goose</b>	<i>Anser caerulescens</i>
Surrey	Chelsham, 40 ferals flew S on Mar 17th (ThBJ). North Downs GC (Woldingham), one flew S on May 21st.	
	<b>Emperor Goose</b>	<i>Anser canagicus</i>
Essex	Walthamstow Res, one on Apr 11th.	
Surrey	London Wetland Centre, one on four dates in March. Tooting Common, one on Mar 12th.	
<b>0167</b>	<b>Barnacle Goose</b>	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>
Essex	Fishers Green, two on Jan 6th. Holyfield Hall Farm, two on Jan 6th & 20th. Holyfield Lake, 1-2 on Jan 13th, Mar 21st and May 4th. Hayes Hill Farm, two on Jan 15th, three on Mar 14th. Walthamstow Res, one on July 18th.	
Herts	Amwell GP, one on Dec 20th. Beech Farm GP, one on Oct 5th. Coopers Green GP, six on Sept 28th. Essendon, one on Jan 1st and 6th. Lemsford Springs, two on Oct 27th. Lynsters Farm, one on seven dates from Feb 18th-Mar 8th. Maple Lodge NR, one on Mar 9th. Panshanger Park, one on June 22nd. Tyttenhanger GPs, one on several dates in late Sept-early Oct.	

- Middx Bushy Park, three on June 4th. Littleton GP, ten on Mar 24th.  
 Kent Sevenoaks WR, 1-2 on various dates from May 5th to July 26th.  
 Surrey Apps Court Farm, eight on Dec 7th. Holmethorpe SP, seven on Jan 6th and 19th. Walton Res, present all year, up to c.10 adults plus five young.
- 0169 Red-breasted Goose** *Branta ruficollis*  
 Surrey London Wetland Centre, a pair, colour ringed, on Mar 4th, 5th, then more or less continuously from Mar 17th to May 30th.
- Yellow-billed Pintail** *Anas georgica*  
 Surrey Beddington SF, two on Mar 8th, one on Mar 10th.
- Muscovy Duck** *Cairina moschata*  
 Essex Raphaels Park, Romford, one on Nov 27th.  
 Herts Eastwick, one on Dec 28th. Ridge, 16 on Jan 26th, seven on Apr 26th and 11 on Dec 6th. Verulamium Lake, up to four throughout the year.
- Wood Duck** *Aix sponsa*  
 Essex Epping Forest, Connaught Water, two males on Sept 8th.  
 Herts Hertford, one on Nov 11th and 23rd.  
 Middx Bushy Park, a male on May 24th.  
 Surrey Beddington SF, one on Oct 23rd. Esher, West End Common, two fem/juv on Jan 21st.
- Falcated Duck** *Anas falcata*  
 Kent Northfleet, one on Jan 10th, 19th, Mar 21st, Apr 23rd and Nov 8th.
- Chiloe Wigeon** *Anas sibilatrix*  
 Kent Sevenoaks WR, one on Sept 3rd and Nov 9th.
- Bahama Pintail** *Anas bahamensis*  
 Kent Footscray Meadows, one on Feb 3rd-4th. Danson Park, one on Feb 7th-8th.  
 Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on Jan 7th-8th, Feb 19th & 24th and Mar 8th.
- Madagascar Teal** *Anas bernieri*  
 Surrey Beddington SF, one on Apr 25th-June 6th and Sept 3rd-15th. QEII Res, the same bird as Beddington on June 7th. Walton Res, also the same bird, ring seen, on July 25th and Oct 20th.
- Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*  
 Middx Staines Res, one thought to be a long-staying escape, possibly a hybrid, from Berks, on various dates between May 12th and June 6th.
- 0196 Red-Crested Pochard** *Netta rufina*  
 Essex Connaught Water, male present all year.  
 Middx Brent Res, three m, three fem on Dec 8th. Bushy Park, eight on Jan 15th.  
 Surrey Esher, four on July 27th. Richmond Park, 1-4 seen all year, mainly on Pen Ponds; however, 15 seen on Nov 16th, with higher numbers thereafter. R. Thames: Tagg's Island, a male on May 18th; Teddington Lock, a pair on Feb 12th, a male on Apr 8th and May 18th.

In Lond Kensington Gdns, bred, a female with c.5 chicks on June 5th. Regent's Park, peak counts of 32 on Feb 8th and 36 on Dec 17th; three broods on May 1st. St. James's Park, two pairs bred, one raising at least nine young. Whether the young were pinioned is uncertain.

**Scaup***Aythya marila*

In Lond Regent's Park, a single adult male present all year, as in the past 12 years.

**Ringed Teal***Callonetta leucophrys*

Kent Sevenoaks WR, one on Jan 23rd.

Surrey Beddington SF, a female on Jan 1st. S. Norwood CP, one seen, no date.

**Hooded Merganser***Lophodytes cucullatus*

Essex Epping Forest, Copped Hall, a pair resident for a number of years.

**Greater Flamingo***Phoenicopterus roseus*

Surrey Leatherhead, two on Oct 8th.

**Common Peafowl***Pavo cristatus*

Herts Bayford, five on Dec 6th. Hatfield Park, 2-8 throughout year. Hatfield:

Home Park, one on Dec 14th; Woodside, one on May 11th and July 3rd.

Surrey West End Common, one on Feb 15th.

**Helmeted Guineafowl***Numida meleagris*

Herts Bayford, 19 on Dec 26th. Brookmans Park, six on July 8th. Essendon, one

on May 11th, June 29th and Dec 7th. N. Mymms Park, two on Aug 31st.

Redwell Wood Farm, 13 on Nov 12th. Welham Green, two on Feb 23rd, seven on July 1st.

**Harris's Hawk***Parabuteo unicinctus*

Essex Mar Dyke Valley, one trailing jesses on Oct 23rd and Nov 17th. Rainham

Marshes, one on Oct 11th-18th, four females on Oct 21st.

Herts Hertingfordbury, one on Jan 29th.

Surrey New Addington, a falconer's bird on Dec 27th. Trevereux area, one with jesses feeding on Moorhens from Dec 2007, was still present in 2008.

**Saker Falcon***Falco cherrug*

Bucks Q. Mother Res, a juvenile on Feb 2nd.

**Merlin***Falco columbarius*

Essex Rainham Marshes, a falconer's bird on Sept 2nd.

**Common Crane***Grus grus*

Herts Tyttenhanger GP, three, one adult and three sub-adult on Apr 22nd-23rd, thought to be recent releases.

**Grey-headed Gull***Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*

Kent Crossness, one escape from London Zoo on May 5th.

- Cockatiel** *Nymphicus hollandicus*  
 Essex Wm Girling Res, one on Apr 20th. Ingrebourne Valley, one on Nov 14th.  
 Herts Hertford, one on June 14th. Great Amwell, one on June 28th.  
 Middx Lake Farm CP, one on July 26th. Brent Res, one on July 27th. Same bird?  
 Surrey Beddington SF, one on May 31st. East Molesey, one on Aug 27th. London Wetland Centre, one on Mar 16th.
- Budgerigar** *Melopsittacus undulatus*  
 Middx Stoke Newington Res, one, mostly white, on Aug 17th. Clissold Park, one, blue, on Aug 25th.
- Senegal Parrot** *Polcephalus senegalus*  
 Surrey Shirley, up to three, appears to be resident in The Grange area.
- Monk Parakeet** *Myiopsitta monachus*  
 Herts Borehamwood, present all year, max of 40 in Feb and c.12 towards the year end. Haberdashers' Girls School, one on Mar 31st. Rowley Green, eight on Feb 4th.  
 Middx Mudchute City Farm, six on Mar 8th.
- Indian Eagle Owl** *Bubo bengalensis*  
 Herts Hertford, one on Sept 30th.
- Yellow-crowned Bishop** *Euplectes afer*  
 Kent Greenwich Ecology Park, one on July 6th.

## Appendix II: Hybrids

The following records relate to wild or feral hybrids.

- Canada x Domestic Goose hybrid**  
 Herts Batchworth Lake, Rickmansworth, one on Feb 10th, Mar 17th, Apr 8th and May 19th. Stocker's Farm, one on Sept 3rd.
- Canada Goose x Greylag Goose**  
 Middx Hampton Court Park, one on Nov 15th.  
 Kent Dartford Marshes, two on Apr 9th.  
 Surrey London Wetland Centre, recorded in all months, max of eight on May 26th. R. Thames, Barnes-Putney, one on Mar 9th.
- Canada x Lesser White-fronted Goose**  
 Herts Amwell GP, one on Jan 1st; present all year.
- Greylag x Bar-headed Goose**  
 Bucks One thought to be this hybrid at Q. Mother Res on Dec 16th (HeCDR).
- Mallard hybrid**  
 Surrey London Wetland Centre, present throughout the year, four adults and seven juv on Aug 20th.
- Aythya hybrids**  
 Herts Amwell GP, probable Pochard x Tufted Duck on Jan 5th and Dec 13th, possibly also seen at Great Amwell on Nov 15th. Stocker's Lake, drake Lesser Scaup-type hybrid on Dec 31st.  
 Middx Staines Res, one fem, possibly Pochard x Tufted Duck, July 31st and Aug 2nd.  
 Bucks Several records from Wraysbury GPs, some possibly representing the same birds: Drake possibly Scaup x Tufted Duck on Apr 25th; drake possibly Pochard x Ferruginous Duck on Nov 15th; drake possibly Pochard x Red-crested Pochard on Nov 17th; drake, possibly Tufted Duck x Pochard in Nov-Dec. Horton, drake, possibly Ferruginous x Tufted Duck on Dec 25th.  
 Surrey London Wetland Centre: drake, possibly Scaup x Tufted Duck hybrid, late Oct-Nov; drake possibly Ring-necked x Tufted Duck in Jan and Nov-Dec. S. Norwood Lake, fem possibly Scaup x Tufted Duck on Dec 25th. Richmond Park, Pen ponds, drake possibly Ring-necked x Tufted Duck on May 13th.
- Hooded Merganser x Goldeneye**  
 Herts Hilfield Park Res, one on Apr 6th, then intermittently to May 14th, probably all the same, regularly returning individual.
- Glaucous Gull Hybrid**  
 Essex Rainham Marshes, one on Feb 9th.
- Falcon Hybrid**  
 Middx Brent Res, a probable hybrid falcon on Mar 8th, the size and shape of male Peregrine but pale grey/brown, plain head, no moustachial streak, no barring or streaks below. Wide bars on uppertail, tail longer than Peregrine, and wings relatively narrow. Possibly the same bird also seen at Brent Res on Aug 12th and at Alexandra Park on Aug 25th-Oct 12th.



## Appendix III: Non-proven and Non-submitted Records

### Non-proven records

The following records were submitted to the London Natural History Society but have not been accepted by either the British Birds Rarities Committee or our Rarities Committee.

2008	Squacco Heron	Rainham	Nov 10
	White Stork	Richmond Park	Apr 5
	Honey Buzzard	Tadworth	Sept 27
	Honey Buzzard	Stocker's Lake	Sept 20
	Hen Harrier	Sevenoaks	Mar 18
	Montagu's Harrier	Stanwell Moor	May 31
	(Accepted as Harrier sp.)		
	Goshawk	Bookham	Feb 10
	Alpine Swift	Lewisham	June 9
	Wryneck	Holmethorpe SP	Oct 7
	Raven	Bloomsbury	Dec 2
	Raven	The Ledges	Feb 29
	Serin	Beddington	Aug 30
	Twite	Rainham	Nov 1
2007	Rough-legged Buzzard	Alexandra Palace	March
	Blyth's Reed Warbler	Rainham	Oct 4-6

### Non-submitted records

The following records have been reported but to date no records have been received by the London Natural History Society. Descriptions (or notes where appropriate) for any of these records would be welcomed, so that in due course they may be published as accepted records.

2008	Honey Buzzard	Regents Park	June 1
	Whooper Swan	Staines	Nov 25
	Gannet	Tythenhanger	Feb 23
	Spoonbill	Rainham	June 9
	Honey Buzzard	London Wetland Centre	May 7
	Honey Buzzard	Rainham	May 31
	Honey Buzzard	Connaught Water	May 31
	Honey Buzzard	Cheshunt	June 1
	Honey Buzzard	Regent's Park	Sept 1
	Honey Buzzard	Ingrebourne Valley	Sept 8
	Honey Buzzard	Richmond Park	Sept 10
	Honey Buzzard	Rainham	Sept 13
	Honey Buzzard	Rainham	Sept 14
	Honey Buzzard	Bedford's Park	Sept 14
	Honey Buzzard	Leyton	Sept 14
	Honey Buzzard	Cheshunt	Sept 14
	Honey Buzzard	Hook	Sept 14
	Honey Buzzard	London Wetlands Centre	Sept 14

**Non-submitted records contd**

Honey Buzzard	Cheshunt	Sept 15
Honey Buzzard	Waterworks NR	Sept 15
Honey Buzzard	Ewell	Sept 18
Honey Buzzard	Isleworth	Sept 18
Honey Buzzard	South Weald	Sept 20
Honey Buzzard	Rye Meads	Sept 21
Honey Buzzard	Connaught Water	Sept 21
Honey Buzzard	Holmethorpe SP	Sept 28
Honey Buzzard	Orsett	Sept 28
Black Kite	Rainham	July 31
Goshawk	Mayesbrook Park	Mar 11
Goshawk	Rainham	Apr 3
Goshawk	Rainham	Apr 13
Goshawk	Wanstead	July 30
Goshawk	Rainham	Sept 23
Goshawk	Rainham	Sept 27
Rough-legged Buzzard	Holyfield Hall Farm	Dec 7
Red-footed Falcon	Dagenham Chase	May 18
Merlin	Three Mills	Nov 19
Spotted Crane	Rainham	Sept 8
Temminck's Stint	London Wetland Centre	May
Pectoral Sandpiper	London Wetland Centre	May
Great Skua	Rainham	Oct 12
Great Skua	London Wetland Centre	Sept 5
Glaucous Gull	London Wetland Centre	Jan 20
Ring-billed Gull	Rainham	Jan 25
Ring-billed Gull	Hackney Marsh	Feb 2
Ring-billed Gull	Hampstead Heath	Dec 3
Roseate Tern	Beckton	Apr 27
Roseate Tern	Beckton	SW, May 21
Nightjar	Barking	July 10
Yellow-browed Warbler	Northaw	Apr 27
Siberian Chiffchaff	Mayesbrook Park	Feb 13
Siberian Chiffchaff	Rainham	Nov 19
Raven	Barking	July 10
Serin	Holmethorpe SP	Oct 8
Serin	London Wetland Centre	Nov 27
Lapland Bunting	London Wetland Centre	Mar 9
Snow Bunting	London Wetland Centre	Feb 10
Snow Bunting	Rainham	Nov 18
Little Bunting	Wormwood Scrubs	Jan 6

# First and Last Dates of Regular Migrants, 2008

## Summer Migrants

	Arrival	Departure
Garganey <sup>w</sup>	Mar 15 Hilfield Park Res	Oct 11 Rainham Marshes
Osprey	Mar 18 Wraysbury	Oct 18 Hampermill
Hobby	Apr 4 Regent's Park	Oct 15 Island Barn Res
Little Ringed Plover	Mar 7 King George V Res	Sept 25 Walthamstow Res
Whimbrel	Mar 13 Rainham Marshes	Sept 11 Horton GP
Little Tern	Apr 27 Queen Elizabeth II Res	Sept 12 London Wetland Centre
Black Tern	Apr 21 Rainham Marshes	Sept 21 William Girling Res
Sandwich Tern	Apr 22 Queen Elizabeth II Res/ London Wetland Centre	Sept 26 Rainham Marshes/ London Wetland Centre
Common Tern	Apr 4 Hillfield Park Res	Oct 23 Walthamstow Res
Arctic Tern	Apr 14 Beckton	Oct 7 Rainham Marshes
Turtle Dove	Apr 16 Lippitts Hill	Sept 25 Regent's Park
Cuckoo	Apr 9 Hall Marsh	Sept 20 Rainham Marshes
Common Swift	Apr 17 Three places	Sept 20 Rainham Marshes
Sand Martin	Feb 29 Three places	Oct 14 Amwell GP
Swallow	Mar 16 Island Barn Res	Nov 13 Grays/Rainham Marshes
House Martin	Mar 16 Dagenham Chase	Oct 20 London Wetland Centre
Tree Pipit	Apr 7 Beddington SF	Sept 29 Rainham Marshes
Yellow Wagtail	Mar 27 King George V Res	Oct 12 King George VI Res
Nightingale	Apr 13 East India Dock Basin	Aug 30 Rainham Marshes
Common Redstart	Apr 5 Beddington/ Sewardstone Marsh	Oct 12 Rainham Marshes
Whinchat	Apr 20 London Wetland Centre	Oct 18 Rainham Marshes
Northern Wheatear	Mar 11 Mayesbrook Park	Nov 19 Walthamstow Res
Ring Ouzel	Mar 26 Regent's Park	Nov 4 London Wetland Centre
Grasshopper Warbler	Apr 16 London Wetland Centre	Sept 25 Trent Park
Sedge Warbler	Apr 2 Amwell GP/Rye Meads RSPB	Oct 4 Rainham Marshes
Reed Warbler	Apr 1 Richmond Park	Oct 26 London Wetland Centre
Garden Warbler	Apr 1 Richmond Park	Sept 29 Bedfords Park
Lesser Whitethroat <sup>w</sup>	Apr 8 Grays	Sept 27 Park Farm, Enfield/ London Wetland Centre
Common Whitethroat	Apr 8 Tottenham Marsh	Nov 17 Rainham Marshes
Wood Warbler	Apr 19 Limpsfield Chart	Sept 14 Alexandra Park
Willow Warbler	Mar 21 Staines Moor	Nov 25 Rainham Marshes
Spotted Flycatcher	May 1 Coulsdon/ Wandsworth Common	Sept 25 Tooting Common
Pied Flycatcher	Apr 19 Carshalton	Sept 28 Alexandra Park

<sup>w</sup> excludes wintering records

## Winter Migrants

	Departure		Arrival	
Smew	Mar 16	Staines Res	Nov 17	Connaught Water
Goosander	May 11	Amwell GP/Tyttenhanger GP	Oct 19	Amwell GP
Bittern	Mar 19	Amwell GP	Nov 2	Amwell GP
Jack Snipe	Apr 27	Holmethorpe SP	Sept 25	Holmethorpe SP
Rock Pipit	Apr 4	London Wetland Centre	Sept 10	London Wetland Centre
Water Pipit	Apr 13	Rainham Marshes	Oct 1	Beddington SF
Fieldfare	Apr 30	Holmethorpe SP	Sept 24	Davy Down
Redwing	Apr 28	Cassiobury Park	Sept 16	South Norwood CP
Brambling	Apr 24	Potters Bar	Sept 19	London Wetland Centre
Siskin <sup>5</sup>	Apr 18	St Albans	July 4	Rainham Marshes

<sup>5</sup> excludes summering records

## Ringling Report for 2008

*Records of birds included in papers have not necessarily been accepted by the Rarities Committee of the London Bird Club (part of the London Natural History Society).*

*Chris Lamsdell*

As in previous years, poor weather conditions - especially in the spring and early summer - had a marked effect on ringing totals. This is not only as a result of lower than normal numbers of juvenile birds in the population due to low breeding productivity, which was noticeable in the region in 2008, but also the reduction in ringing effort occasioned by the weather conditions which makes mist netting less effective.

The reported ringing total for the LNHS Area for 2008 was 19,437 - only slightly below the previous year's total of 19,607 - and was still higher than the ten-year average. This total was made up of 16,494 full-grown birds (16,391 in 2007) and 2,943 nestlings (down 8.5% compared to 2007).

The relative positions of the most-ringed species are shown in Table 1.

**Table 1.** The most-ringed species, in descending order

Species	Full-grown	Pullus	Total
Blue Tit	1,287	857	2,144
Great Tit	970	811	1,781
Blackcap	1,455		1,455
Common Chiffchaff	1,290	4	1,294
Reed Warbler	888	133	1,021
Greenfinch	844		844
Long-tailed Tit	751	6	757
Robin	731	21	752
Dunnock	652	9	661
Blackbird	578	15	593

Positions in 2008 remained largely unchanged this year for most species, with Blue Tit (down 17% on top of a 20% reduction in 2007) and Great Tit (down 1.5% again on top of a 19% reduction in 2007) retaining their positions at the top of the 'most-ringed' table. Blackcap numbers were more or less equal to 2007 and held on to third place. Another increase (11.5%) in adult Common Chiffchaff ringed at a number of sites meant that this species remained in fourth place for the second season running. A poor year for Tree Sparrow pulli (a reduction of 61%) took this species out of the ten most ringed. Both Reed Warbler (5% increase) and Greenfinch (9% decrease) moved up the table, Long-tailed Tit (with an increase of 25.5%) entered the table at seventh position, and Robin (7% increase), Dunnock (2% decrease) and Blackbird (6.5% decrease) held on to the last three positions.

The first Cormorant pulli (8) were ringed in the Area this year in the Lea Valley. Mute Swan numbers were up by 311%, mainly due to some additional ringing data this year. Goose numbers showed a significant increase, with the number of Greylags ringed up by 100%, Canada Goose up by 278%, and Egyptian Goose by 300%. Again, this was in part due to additional data having been available this year from some regular Goose round-ups in Central London parks. Ducks had a mixed year,

with decreases in Mallard (10%) and Tufted Duck (48%), but increases in the number of Teal (200%) and Gadwall (including pulli, 186%) ringed. In addition, three Mandarin were reported ringed this year, the first ones since 2000.

The number of Sparrowhawks ringed continues to rise, with 25 adults and five pulli ringed this year. Kestrel numbers were also up, with seven adults and 22 pulli ringed. In addition, three Hobby pulli were ringed.

Five Water Rails were ringed in 2008 (four more than the previous year), and Moorhen were up by 32% and Coot by 23.5%.

Waders ringed within the LNHS Area fluctuate in number year on year and 2008 was a low year for wader species. Northern Lapwings, after last year's highest ever catch of 25, were back down to nine - all pulli. No Common Sandpiper was ringed this year, and there were decreases in Dunlin (down from 87 in 2007 to only 13) and Redshank (down from 15 to three). On the plus side, two Ringed Plover and three Jack Snipe were ringed compared to none in the previous year.

The number of Gull species ringed continues on from last year due to the efforts of the North Thames Gull Group at Rainham, though access and the ringing at another tip just outside the LNHS Area resulted in lower catches of gulls, especially the larger species within our Area in 2008.

Numbers of Stock Dove, Woodpigeon and Collared Dove were all up on last year, with the number of Woodpigeon ringed having doubled, but again there were no ringing records for Turtle Dove. The continuing rise of the Ring-necked Parakeet resulted in the number ringed increasing by 64% to 146 individuals, which this year is in part due to some additional data from the Surrey area within the LNHS recording area. The expansion of this species outside the Greater London area seems to be gaining momentum.

Last year's record number of Barn Owl pulli ringed was not maintained, dropping with a bump back down to five (22% of the 2007 figure), but the six Tawny Owls were on par with recent annual totals for this species.

Forty-one Common Swifts were ringed this year, compared to none the previous year - the last ones ringed in the LBR Area being in 2002.

Adult Swallow numbers matched last year, but with more pulli (41) and less adults (21), and Sand Martin and House Martin numbers increased - especially House Martins, which shot up to 263 due to some good catches by Rye Meads RG.

The annual ringing total for Meadow Pipit rarely exceeds 50 full-grown birds and the ten-year average is 56; so last year's total of 283 was exceptional, but this year's 124 was still above average. In addition, three Water Pipits were a nice addition to this year's Pipit totals, though there were no Yellow Wagtails - not surprising considering it declined nationally. The number of Grey Wagtails rose by over 150%, but Pied Wagtails were just 10% of last year's total.

Wren and Dunnock were reported in lower numbers this year, with only Robin showing an increase. No Common Redstarts were reported but, in contrast, one Black Redstart was trapped at Bedfont CP. Blackbirds and Song Thrushes were down 6% and 14% respectively on the previous year, slightly reversing last year's increase. Also the number of Redwings reported had dropped by 50%.



After last year's mostly downward trend in the number of commonly-ringed summer migrants, this year had both increases and decreases. The maxima were: Sedge Warbler and Common Chiffchaff, up by 14.5% and 11.5% respectively; and Garden Warbler and Lesser Whitethroat, down by 24.5% and 22% respectively. Goldcrest increased by 268%.

Both Blue and Great Tit numbers fell back further from the highs of 2006, but Long-tailed Tit continued its rise upwards by a further 25% and Coal Tit by 60%. No Marsh Tits were ringed this year or last; and it is highly unlikely that many reports are likely here in the future, of either this species or of Willow Tit.

There was a further increase of 19% in the number of Starlings ringed. The number of House Sparrows also increased - to an all-time high of 483 (up 778%); sadly, this is not due to a comparable improvement in the bird's status but to the concerted effort of a RSPB-backed research project on city House Sparrows that ringed the vast majority of this year's birds. Sadly too, there was a significant decline of 61% in the number of Tree Sparrows ringed - mainly in the number of pulli.

Finch numbers ringed were again generally lower this year, with decreases of over 10% in Goldfinch, Linnets and Bullfinch; but Siskin showed a 2975% increase, mainly due to high returns from one garden site in the West of the recording area, and Lesser Redpoll showed a 450% increase.

Although the overall number of pulli ringed was lower (8.5%) than the previous year, this year there was a reverse on last year's number of Blue and Great Tit fledgelings ringed with increases of 2.6% and 5.1% respectively. The other major nest-box species, Tree Sparrow, had a dramatic decrease of 61.3%.

The upward trend continued in the number of open-nest pulli ringed this year in relation to Swallow, Sedge Warbler and Reed Warbler, though the number of Common Tern pulli decreased by 18.4%.

Unusual species ringed included one scarce migrant: a Wryneck. Other records of note were: Jack Snipe (3); Tree Pipit (2); Water Pipit (3); Black Redstart; Northern Wheatear; and Firecrest (5).

There have been a number of interesting recoveries reported during the year; a selection of these is listed below. (*Sites within the London Area are attributed to their Watsonian vice-county, as used in the rest of the London Bird Report, with the present administrative area in parentheses. This is to prevent confusion since many counties, where the original ringing, recovery or control may have taken place, use current administrative boundaries.*)

The first detail line shows the ring number, the age (and sex) when ringed, and the date and site of original ringing; the second line the status, date and site of subsequent recovery or recapture; the third line the distance (1km=0.625 miles), direction and number of days between original ringing and final recovery; and finally any observations or comments. Dates are in the format dd/mm/yy.

**Key to symbols used:**

1y, 2y, 3y	First-year, second-year, third-year	RR	Alive and probably healthy, ring or colour marks read in the field by a ringer
ad	Adult	VV	Ring or colour marks read in the field
F	Female	X	Found dead
juv	Juvenile	XL	Found dead, not recent
M	Male	+	Shot or killed by man
pul	Pullus/Nestling		
R	Caught and released by a ringer		

Numerals 3, 4, 5, 6:

EURING Codes for the **age** of the bird when ringed, as mentioned by the person who handled the bird.

The following is based on information provided in the *EURING Exchange Code Manual 2000+*.

- 3 First-year: full-grown bird hatched in the breeding season of that calendar year.
- 4 After first-year: full-grown bird hatched before that calendar year; year of birth otherwise unknown.
- 5 2nd year: a bird hatched in the previous calendar year and now in its second calendar year.
- 6 After 2nd year: full-grown bird hatched before last calendar year; year of birth otherwise unknown.

**Mute Swan *Cygnus olor***

W12911	ad (5)	05/03/05	Verulamium Lake (Hertfordshire)
	RR	18/04/08	Mistley, River Stour (Essex) 100km; 1,140 days

**Greylag Goose *Anser anser***

5188440	3	22/06/97	Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve, Sevenoaks, Kent
	+	27/01/08	Marshes north of Deal, Kent 84km; 3,871 days
5188482	4	22/06/97	Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve, Sevenoaks, Kent
	X	01/01/08	Tonbridge, Kent. 17km; 3,845 days
5209761	4	20/06/99	Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve, Sevenoaks, Kent
	XL	02/01/08	Unknown location, Kent 49km; 3,118 days

**Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca***

1092780	ad	30/06/01	Richmond Park, Surrey (Greater London)
	R	28/01/08	London Wetland Centre, Barnes, Surrey (Greater London) 7km; 2,403 days

**Gadwall *Anas strepera***

FP66339	pul	17/07/04	Rye Meads, Hertfordshire
	+	14/01/08	Soulaire-et-Bourg, Maine-et-Loire, France ~ 467km; 1,276 days

**Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

FA29756	juv	28/10/06	Rye Meads, Hertfordshire
	+	18/09/07	Hotot-en-Auge, Calvados, France
			291km; 325 days

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

FA29731	pul	03/08/07	Rye Meads, Hertfordshire
	+	25/11/07	Lough Sheelin, Cavan, Eire
			541km; 114 days

**Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*

5350063	ad	18/05/07	Neidersachen, Germany
Darvic AAZS	VV	31/12/08	Kensington Gardens, Middlesex (Greater London)
			701km. WSW; 593 days

**Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*

6174124	ad	26/03/00	Frognerparken, Akershus, Norway
	VV	16/11/00	Alexandra Park, Middlesex (Greater London)
	VV	07/03/08	Alexandra Park, Middlesex (Greater London)
	VV	08/11/08	Alexandra Park, Middlesex (Greater London)
			1,146km; 3,117 days
6191267	ad	08/03/00	Pildammsparken, Malmö, Malmöhus, Sweden
	VV	22/01/08	Alexandra Park, Middlesex (Greater London)
	VV	06/03/08	Alexandra Park, Middlesex (Greater London)
	VV	04/10/08	Alexandra Park, Middlesex (Greater London)
			972km; 3,132 days
6199157	ad	22/03/01	Pildammsparken, Malmö, Malmöhus, Sweden
	VV	22/01/08	Alexandra Park, Middlesex (Greater London)
	VV	06/03/08	Alexandra Park, Middlesex (Greater London)
	VV	31/10/08	Alexandra Park, Middlesex (Greater London)
			972km; 2,780 days
5T56399	ad	22/04/99	Berendrecht, Antwerpen, Belgium
	VV	22/01/08	St James's Park, Middlesex (Greater London)
	VV	04/11/08	St James's Park, Middlesex (Greater London)
	VV	02/12/08	St James's Park, Middlesex (Greater London)
			310km; 3,512 days
ST229845	ad	19/04/03	Turku-Pori, Finland
	VV	02/01/08	St James's Park, Middlesex (Greater London)
	VV	24/12/08	St James's Park, Middlesex (Greater London)
			1,712km; 2,076 days
EH56982	ad	13/11/80	Regent's Park, Middlesex (Greater London)
	VV	07/11/07	Regent's Park, Middlesex (Greater London)
	VV	05/03/08	Regent's Park, Middlesex (Greater London)
			2km; 9,974 days
EL88472	ad	31/01/07	St James's Park, Middlesex (Greater London)
	VV	05/03/08	Stad Groningen, Floresplein, Netherlands
			c.360km; 399 days

EN46655	6 R	02/03/86 21/05/01	Longreach Sewage Farm, Dartford, Kent Greind, <b>Netherlands</b> . 53.15N 5.15E 394k; 5,559 days
EP78472	ad X	15/12/07 24/05/08	Rainham Tip, Greater London Januszkowice Zdieszowice, Opolskie, <b>Poland</b> 1,263km; 161 days
EP78491	ad VV VV VV	15/12/07 18/04/08 26/04/08 10/07/08	Rainham Tip, Greater London Bredstedt-Mühlentich, Schleswig-Holstein, <b>Germany</b> Bredstedt-Mühlentich, Schleswig-Holstein, <b>Germany</b> Bredstedt-Mühlentich, Schleswig-Holstein, <b>Germany</b> 681km; 208 days
EP78718	ad VV VV VV R	05/01/08 17/03/08 23/03/08 26/03/08 27/03/08	Rainham Tip, Greater London Gelderland, <b>Netherlands</b> Gelderland, <b>Netherlands</b> Gelderland, <b>Netherlands</b> Gelderland, <b>Netherlands</b> 400km; 82 days
ET95200	juv VV	16/12/01 29/04/08	Rye Meads, Hertfordshire Eidersperrwerk, Schleswig-Holstein, <b>Germany</b> 653km; 2,324 days
EW64625	ad VV	21/02/08 04/03/08	Kensington Gardens, Middlesex (Greater London) Husum Hafen, Schleswig-Holstein, <b>Germany</b> 698km; 12 days

**Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus***

GG61230	ad VV VV	31/03/07 25/03/08 21/05/08	Rainham Tip, Greater London Zeebrugge, West-Vlaanderen, <b>Belgium</b> Zeebrugge, West-Vlaanderen, <b>Belgium</b> 210km; 417 days
GG61357	3y VV	10/11/07 06/09/08	Rainham Tip, Greater London St Peter Ording, Schleswig-Holstein, <b>Germany</b> 645km; 301 days
GG61368	3y X	15/12/07 06/06/08	Rainham Tip, Greater London Wormer- en Jisperveld, Noord-Holland, <b>Netherlands</b> 339km; 174 days

**House Martin *Delichon urbicum***

R575623	juv R	03/10/03 21/08/07	Icklesham, East Sussex Rye Meads, Hertfordshire 107km; 1,418 days
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**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

CL14871	3 F	06/11/04	Queen Mary Reservoir, Middlesex (Surrey)
	R	18/12/04	Queen Mary Reservoir, Middlesex (Surrey)
	R	15/01/05	Queen Mary Reservoir, Middlesex (Surrey)
	R	04/02/06	Queen Mary Reservoir, Middlesex (Surrey)
	R	04/11/06	Queen Mary Reservoir, Middlesex (Surrey)
	R	16/12/06	Queen Mary Reservoir, Middlesex (Surrey)
	R	27/01/07	Queen Mary Res, Surrey
	X	11/09/08	Ahlen-Falkenburg, Wanna, Bremen, <b>Germany</b> 676km; 1,405 days
RP59167	ad M	19/03/06	Iver Heath, Buckinghamshire
	R	08/11/06	Leek, Groningen, <b>Netherlands</b>
	VV	18/12/07	Iver Heath, Buckinghamshire 504km; 234 days

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

R696026	juv	17/07/08	Stanborough Reed Marsh, Hertfordshire
	R	06/08/08	Tour aux Moutons, Donges, Loire-Atlantique, <b>France</b> 512km; 20 days
R827719	juv	28/04/04	Ballycotton, Cork, <b>Eire</b>
	R	20/08/07	Wraysbury GP, Berkshire 514km; 1,087 days
V416724	juv	15/07/07	Rye Meads, Hertfordshire
	R	03/08/07	Donges, Loire-Atlantique, <b>France</b> 517km; 19 days
V523446	juv	21/07/07	Wraysbury GP, Berkshire
	R	18/08/07	Saint-Vigor-d'Ymonville, Seine-Maritime, <b>France</b> 228km; 28 days
V417324	juv	11/08/07	Rye Meads, Hertfordshire
	R	25/08/07	Donges, Loire-Atlantique, <b>France</b> 517km; 14 days
V417721	juv	25/08/07	Rye Meads, Hertfordshire
	R	04/09/07	Villeton, Lot-et-Garonne, <b>France</b> 825km; 10 days

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

N182010	3	09/08/05	Salurua-Betono, Alava, <b>Spain</b>
	R	06/08/06	Crossness Nature Reserve, Greater London
	R	03/06/07	Crossness Nature Reserve, Greater London
	R	10/08/08	Crossness Nature Reserve, Greater London 985km; 1,097 days
N400684	ad	23/05/98	Queen Mary Reservoir, Middlesex (Surrey)
	R	16/05/04	Crossness SF, Greater London
	R	25/08/07	Mayfield Farm, West Bedfont, Greater London 6km; 3,381 days

P460916	ad	14/07/01	Stoke Lake, Guildford, Surrey
	R	04/05/08	Bedfont Lakes, Greater London 22km; 2,486 days
V011197	4 F	15/07/07	Brandon Marsh, Warwickshire
	R	05/06/08	Ruxley Gravel Pits, Greater London 152km; 326 days
V416570	juv	14/07/07	Rye Meads, Hertfordshire
	R	09/08/07	Donges, Loire-Atlantique, France 517km; 26 days

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

T949189	juv M	12/10/06	Lundy Island, Devon
	R	24/11/07	Wraysbury GP, Berkshire 288km; 408 days
V462541	juv M	19/09/07	Wraysbury GP, Berkshire
	X	24/05/08	Roeselare, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium 262km. ESE, 248 days
V967863	3 F	13/09/08	Queen Mary Reservoir, Middlesex (Surrey)
	R	10/10/08	Isle of Grain, Kent 82km. E; 27 days

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

R952041	ad	30/04/05	Dinton Pastures, Reading, Berkshire
	R	18/06/05	Wraysbury GP, Berkshire
	R	03/05/08	Wraysbury GP, Berkshire 308km; 1,099 days
BC96227	3	09/08/07	Villeton, Lot-et-Garonne, France 44.21N 0.16E
	R	10/05/08	Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve, Sevenoaks, Kent 771km N; 275 days

**Common Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

V416570	juv	08/09/07	Rye Meads, Hertfordshire
	R	12/09/07	Saint-froult, Charente-Maritime, France 652km; 4 days

**Common Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

BJH784	juv	16/09/06	Wraysbury GP, Berkshire
	R	23/07/07	Burgh Castle, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk 198km; 280 days
BJH501	ad	11/03/07	Bedfont Lakes, Greater London
	R	11/07/08	Near Stowmarket, Suffolk 132km; 488 days
CJB794	3	13/09/08	Icklesham, East Sussex
	R	23/09/08	Queen Mary Reservoir, Middlesex (Surrey) 99km; 10 days



**Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapilla*

BEH893	3 M	22/09/07	Calf of Man, Isle of Man
	R	01/11/08	Queen Mary Reservoir, Middlesex (Surrey) 413km. SE; 406 days

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

V202721	juv	07/06/08	Llancillo Court, Nr Pontrilas, Hereford & Worcester
	X	04/08/08	East Dulwich, Kent (Greater London) 204km; 58 days

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

CHC727	juv	27/07/08	Manor Farm, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire
	R	22/11/08	Lemsford Springs NR (Hertfordshire) 34km; 118 days

CHC735	juv	27/07/08	Manor Farm, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire
	R	22/11/08	Lemsford Springs NR (Hertfordshire) 34km; 118 days

CHC736	juv	27/07/08	Manor Farm, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire
	R	16/11/08	Lemsford Springs NR (Hertfordshire) 34km; 112 days

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*

TC61940	4 F	17/10/04	Crossness Nature Reserve, Greater London
	R	19/07/08	Flatford Mill, East Bergholt, Suffolk 45km; 1,371 days

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

V842039	juv	12/11/07	Beanacre, Melksham, Wiltshire
	R	12/01/08	Iver Heath, Buckinghamshire 114km; 61 days
X436292	3 F	28/10/08	Queen Mary Reservoir, Middlesex (Surrey)
	R	26/11/08	East Grinstead, East Sussex 47km. SE; 29 days

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*

V326474	juv F	30/10/07	Burgh Castle, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk
	R	28/02/08	Iver Heath, Buckinghamshire 191km; 121 days
V550496	6 M	24/02/08	Tandridge, Surrey
	X	26/09/08	Hanstedt, Hamburg, Germany, 53.15N 10.00E 719km ENE; 215 days
V791657	1y F	22/02/08	Iver Heath, Buckinghamshire
	R	14/03/08	Hapton, Norfolk 163km; 21 days

## Reporting a ringed bird

The BTO relies on people reporting ringed birds, so if you find a bird wearing a ring or have read metal or colour ring details in the field, please report these to the BTO Ringing Unit, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU or use the on-line reporting pages at [www.euring.org](http://www.euring.org)

**Table 2.** Species totals of birds reported as ringed in the London Area during 2008

Species	Full-grown	Pullus	Total
Mute Swan	46	28	74
Greylag Goose	128	10	138
Canada Goose	136	42	178
Egyptian Goose	15	9	24
Mandarin	2	1	3
Gadwall	15	25	40
Common Teal	15		15
Mallard	52	16	68
Common Pochard		2	2
Tufted Duck	9	5	14
Little Grebe	1		1
Cormorant		8	8
Grey Heron	4	28	32
Sparrowhawk	25	5	30
Kestrel	7	22	29
Hobby		3	3
Water Rail	5		5
Moorhen	30	3	33
Coot	55	13	68
Little Ringed Plover		6	6
Ringed Plover	2		2
Northern Lapwing		9	9
Dunlin	13		13
Jack Snipe	3		3
Common Snipe	2		2
Redshank	3		3
Green Sandpiper	4		4
Black-headed Gull	318	20	338
Common Gull	5		5
Lesser Black-backed Gull	15		15
Herring Gull	81		81
Great Black-backed Gull	4		4
Common Tern		120	120
Stock Dove	2	15	17
Woodpigeon	47	1	48
Collared Dove	10	1	11
Ring-necked Parakeet	146		146
Cuckoo	1	1	2
Barn Owl		5	5
Little Owl		3	3

Species	Full-grown	Pullus	Total
Tawny Owl		6	6
Common Swift	41		41
Kingfisher	58		58
Wryneck	1		1
Green Woodpecker	29		29
Great Spotted Woodpecker	71		71
Sand Martin	27		27
Swallow	21	41	62
House Martin	263		263
Tree Pipit	2		2
Meadow Pipit	124		124
Water Pipit	3		3
Grey Wagtail	13	28	41
Pied Wagtail	9		9
Wren	513		513
Dunnock	652	9	661
Robin	731	21	752
Black Redstart	1		1
Common Redstart	1		1
European Stonechat	4		4
Northern Wheatear	1		1
Blackbird	578	15	593
Fieldfare	8		8
Song Thrush	248	9	257
Redwing	35		35
Mistle Thrush	4		4
Cetti's Warbler	12		12
Grasshopper Warbler	1	4	5
Sedge Warbler	435	91	526
Reed Warbler	888	133	1,021
Blackcap	1,455		1,455
Garden Warbler	215	2	217
Lesser Whitethroat	96	1	97
Common Whitethroat	497	28	525
Common Chiffchaff	1,290	4	1,294
Willow Warbler	206		206
Goldcrest	504		504
Firecrest	5		5
Spotted Flycatcher		3	3
Long-tailed Tit	751	6	757
Blue Tit	1,287	857	2,144
Great Tit	970	811	1,781
Coal Tit	60	9	69
Nuthatch	6		6
Treecreeper	26		26
Jay	51		51
Magpie	45	7	52
Jackdaw	8	5	13

Species	Full-grown	Pullus	Total
Carrion Crow	2	1	3
Starling	229	13	242
House Sparrow	483		483
Tree Sparrow	3	394	397
Chaffinch	468	2	470
Brambling	9		9
Greenfinch	844		844
Goldfinch	415		415
Siskin	369		369
Linnet	25		25
Lesser Redpoll	22		22
Bullfinch	76		76
Yellowhammer	5		5
Reed Bunting	97	42	139
	<b>16,494</b>	<b>2,943</b>	<b>19,437</b>

### List of contributors

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## The Breeding Bird Survey in London, 2008

*Ian Woodward, BTO North London Contact*

The BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) was introduced in 1994 to provide a measure of the population changes of our common and widespread birds. One-kilometre squares are chosen at random by BBS organisers at the BTO. Each square is allocated to a volunteer, who makes two early-morning transect walks between April and June, separated by at least four weeks. The survey is repeated each year, following the same route. By comparing counts of birds made on the same squares in successive years, it is possible to measure population changes.

Where species are sufficiently widespread, changes in population can be measured at regional level as well as at national level. This report covers the London government office region, and therefore does not represent the entire LNHS area.

In 2008, a total of 104 squares were surveyed in the London region. This represents a drop in coverage for the first time since 2001 (*see Table 1*).

**Table 1.** Number of squares covered over the most-recent ten years

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
61	59	53	58	61	89	91	104	118	104

In 2008, Common Buzzard was seen for the first time on BBS walks in London, bringing the total seen on London squares to 128 species. Other species seen this year included Red Kite, Curlew and Wood Warbler. As in 2007, the most abundant species counted was Starling (2,925 individuals). This was followed closely by Woodpigeon (2,877) and Feral Pigeon (2,831).

Table 2 shows the population changes in London between 2007/2008 and 1995/2007, compared with the change found nationally over these periods. The criterion for inclusion in the table is that a species occurs in an average of 30 squares per year over the survey period 1994 to 2008, which is considered to be the minimum number to provide reliable trends. As a result of the low number of squares covered in the early years of the survey, we can report on only 22 species. With more squares now being covered this number continues to climb, and Mistle Thrush is included for the first time this year.

For the first time this year, the longer term population trends since the start of the survey in 1994 have been smoothed to give a clearer picture of the overall trend. This statistical technique involves truncation of the end points, and so the long-term population trends are labelled as 1995/2007 rather than 1994/2008.

Thirteen species show a statistically significant increase in London between 1995 and 2007: Woodpigeon; Collared Dove; Wren; Dunnock; Robin; Blackcap, Blue Tit; Great Tit; Magpie; Carrion Crow; Chaffinch; Greenfinch; and Goldfinch. Seven species show a significant decrease in London over the same period: Feral Pigeon (or Feral Rock Dove); Common Swift; Blackbird; Song Thrush; Mistle Thrush; Starling; and House Sparrow. For both Blackbird and Song

Thrush, the decline in London contrasts with an increase across the UK as a whole over the same period.

Population changes between 2007 and 2008 showed mixed fortunes for the 22 species measured in London. None of these changes was statistically significant.

**Table 2.** Population changes in numbers of birds in the BTO's London region compared with the United Kingdom

lcl=lower confidence limit; ucl=upper confidence limit

figures in **bold type** are statistically significant

The long term trend has been smoothed. As smoothing involves truncation of the end points, this trend is labelled as 1995/2007, even though the survey period covered is from 1994 to 2008.

	Sample size London	Change 2007/ 2008 London	Change 2007/ 2008 UK	Change 1995/ 2007 London	Change 1995/ 2007 London lcl	Change 1995/ 2007 London ucl	Change 1995/ 2007 UK
Mallard	36	-14	1	-19	-36	8	19
Feral Pigeon <sup>1</sup>	62	-11	-2	-20	-32	-8	-9
Woodpigeon	69	-5	<b>11</b>	<b>77</b>	51	106	<b>34</b>
Collared Dove	45	14	6	<b>53</b>	22	87	27
Common Swift	53	12	5	-28	-46	-7	-29
Wren	63	1	2	<b>50</b>	33	70	26
Duncock	50	-7	-4	<b>28</b>	9	51	21
Robin	65	8	7	<b>77</b>	53	110	20
Blackbird	69	0	4	-13	-20	-3	25
Song Thrush	44	5	8	-26	-41	-10	25
Mistle Thrush	30	-6	-2	-38	-55	-19	-8
Blackcap	33	2	-1	<b>79</b>	45	126	57
Blue Tit	68	-12	-5	<b>56</b>	38	81	6
Great Tit	62	-1	-3	<b>120</b>	83	162	46
Jay	34	3	11	16	-9	37	13
Magpie	67	-4	1	<b>27</b>	10	45	-2
Carrion Crow	69	0	-6	<b>57</b>	35	84	13
Starling	68	-15	-7	-33	-46	-22	-31
House Sparrow	61	-3	1	-66	-74	-55	-8
Chaffinch	43	29	-7	<b>162</b>	106	282	11
Greenfinch	52	-6	-9	<b>131</b>	77	193	24
Goldfinch	33	15	14	<b>158</b>	87	263	42

<sup>1</sup> Feral Rock Dove

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# A long-term study of ringed Black-headed Gulls

*Alan Gibson*

## Introduction

This study was inspired by a paper in the 1985 *LBR* by A.P. Gosling about a three-year study of the ringed Black-headed Gulls in St James's Park. He carried out this study using binoculars - which I thought was mind-boggling. On December 8th 1990, I saw a ringed Black-headed Gull standing on the wooden barrier which at that time enclosed the children's boats on the boating lake at Alexandra Park. I decided to try if I could read the number using binoculars. The letters giving the country of origin are usually much smaller than the figures and more difficult to read; I found that only three or four digits can be seen at one time but, after a little persistence, I obtained the complete number: EN 14512. I reported this to the BTO and said that other gulls were perching too far away for me to read their numbers and I would have to use my telescope the following year. This first bird had been ringed in St James's Park and had been seen in Kiel, Germany. The next year, my first two birds were from Germany and Lithuania. I was hooked. Be warned!

## Study areas

Initially, my study area was Alexandra Park boating lake and Wood Green Reservoir filter beds (which adjoin Alexandra Park). Since 2003, the filter beds have been unproductive due to constant disturbance. There have been various stages of upgrading the filter beds: an underground reservoir with a building on top were constructed; sand-cleaning plant was installed; and a large bromate-extraction plant was built. The work continues at the time of writing.

In 1995, I extended my study to Broomfield Park occasionally and happened to meet Aubrey Gosling, who informed me that he no longer studied at St James's Park. (My visits to Broomfield Park are mainly when there is likely to be ice on the lakes.)

In 1997, I extended my study to Regent's Park and St James's Park. In general the gulls need to be standing on hard surfaces for the rings to be read, as mown grass usually obscures the rings. At St James's Park the enclosed areas around the lake are usually cropped short by the various species of geese kept there, so the rings can be read.

In 1998, I also included Hyde Park.

In 2003, I further extended my study to Kensington Gardens.

My study period starts at the end of September or early October and continues until mid-March. I visit my local area on most days and the Royal Parks once a week.

## Foreign-ringed gulls

I have recorded over 100 foreign-ringed gulls in my local patch and over 200 altogether. Inevitably there are some for which I fail to get the complete number. My first Polish gull took me three winters to establish that it was from Poland. The countries that they have come from are as follows: Belgium 8, Czech Republic 1, Denmark 18, Estonia 11, Finland 47, Germany 13, Holland 12, Latvia 3, Lithuania

26, Norway 8, Poland 14, Slovakia 1, Spain 1 and Sweden 39. One of my Finnish birds was ringed within 40 kilometres of the Arctic Circle - nearly as far north as they breed. About two-thirds of my Swedish birds were ringed at the same site - Pildamsparken, Malmö. Pildamsparken means 'the willow pond park', and I am told that there are only two willow trees left there.

I once saw two Swedish-ringed gulls with numbers only six apart (which had been ringed on the same day at Pildamsparken) standing three metres apart in St James's Park.

## Longevity

In 1974, the BTO produced a booklet on Bird Ringing. At that time, the British age record for a ringed Black-headed Gull was 19 years and 11 months. Time has moved on: I have now seen 30 over 20 years old; also one ringed in Germany and one in Holland.

I have established British age records with two birds: EH 42857 was ringed in Hyde Park on the March 6th 1979 and I last saw it in St James's Park on January 23rd 2007; EH 56982 was ringed in Regent's Park on November 13th 1980 and I last saw it in the same place on March 2nd 2010. (Who knows if I will see it again and for how much longer.)

## Engraved coloured rings

These are plastic rings that are put on the other leg from the metal ring. They are intended to be readable from a distance and they come in various colours. They have two to four letters, or letters and digits; I have not seen any with digits only. My contact for information on these rings is Kjeld Pedersen at Copenhagen University, and my thanks go to him. Birds with these rings tend to be widely reported, and some have extensive and interesting life histories.

A Finnish-ringed gull ST 068.431 with CKA white was recorded at Pildamsparken, Malmö in October 1995 and March 1998, so it used that site on both spring and autumn migrations. I recorded this bird at Alexandra Park boating lake in the winters 1998/99 and 1999/2000. Another Finnish bird ST 179.819 with CM80 white, which I saw at Alexandra Park boating lake, had also been seen at Brent Reservoir and in Staffordshire.

A Dutch bird 3.584.581 with E9HT white had a six-page printout of its life history, having been reported by 14 people, only in Arnhem. All these sightings have been between September 26th and March 19th every winter since 2001/02. I saw this bird at Kensington Gardens on February 4th 2009. It hadn't been seen in Arnhem between January 28th and March 2nd when it returned. This looks like a cold weather movement. Another Dutch bird 3.556.864 with KH yellow was ringed in Arnhem on February 2nd 1997 then was reported almost daily in Bremen from March 13th until April 6th the same year. It was back in Arnhem with many sightings in winter 1997/98. It had fewer sightings during the following winters in Arnhem until I saw it in Regent's Park on February 14th 2003 - maybe another cold weather movement.

Most of my British-ringed gulls have been ringed in the Royal Parks by Roy Sanderson. I have also seen one bird with wing tags, which came from Sunderland.

## Site fidelity

Most of my gulls I record from just one site. I once saw one bird in St James's Park and Hyde Park on the same day. When I phoned Aubrey Gosling to tell him that I had seen a Lithuanian gull 249149 in St James's Park that he had seen several years before, he told me whereabouts in St James's Park I had seen it. I saw ER 73966 - 7Y7 white over six winters within 25 metres of the same spot in Kensington Gardens, apart from once when it was 1,200 metres away in Hyde Park.

Some birds I do not see every year; but that does not mean that they are not actually present. The number of winters when I have actually seen foreign-ringed gulls is as follows:

- 32 for 2 winters
- 18 for 3 winters
- 10 for 4 winters
- 6 for 5 winters
- 4 for 6 winters
- 9 for 7 winters
- 5 for 8 winters
- 1 for 9 winters
- 2 for 10 winters
- 1 for 12 winters

I saw my very first bird EN 14512 for 16 consecutive winters.

## Other ringed gulls

In all this time, I have seen few ringed gulls of other species. Those I have seen are as follows:

- eight ringed Common Gulls: two from Finland, two from Germany, three from Norway and one with a British ring.
- two Herring Gulls, both with British rings.
- four Mediterranean Gulls, all with engraved coloured rings: two were at the Hayle Estuary from Holland, one at Elmley RSPB reserve from Belgium, and one at Kensington Gardens with AAZS green. This last bird was originally ringed at Copt Point on January 31st 2003 with ring number EP 10708; it was re-ringed in Germany on May 18th 2007 with ring number 5350063 (unusually, this ring was above the knee); it was reported by a number of people from the Round Pond in the winter 2007/08; it then returned to where it was ringed in Germany and bred there.
- one Lesser Black-backed Gull with a BTO ring.

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# The Birds of Gunnersbury Triangle Nature Reserve, 1994–2003

*David Rear*

This small reserve of 2.5ha (6 acres) is surrounded by the industry, commerce and housing of Chiswick and South Acton and is bounded by two railways, the District Line and the London Overground, formerly the North London Line; the track-bed and bank of a third line form the northern boundary, this line being closed in 1966. The name of the site reflects the convergence of the three railways in the 1870s, when access was by a bridge over the western line, demolished by Railtrack in 1999. This allowed gravel extraction and other activities, all of which led in time to a valuable diversity of habitat, which may be summarised as: birch and willow woodland; wet willow woodland; shallow pools, with a pond from 1986; neutral and acid grasslands, including small meadows; undisturbed scrub.

The Reserve was established in 1984-85, following a campaign against commercial development of the site by the Chiswick Wildlife Group, later the local group of the London Wildlife Trust (LWT). The group still manages the site, in partnership with staff and volunteers from the Trust. It received Local Nature Reserve status in 1987 and is a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation.

## Habitat management 1994–2003

A weekly team of LWT volunteers maintained the habitat diversity, in particular by preventing scrub encroachment on the grasslands. The most significant intervention was the removal of all holm oak and much sycamore in 1998, creating woodland glades, to the benefit of songbirds and many invertebrates. Regular collaboration was maintained with the ecologists of British Rail and Railtrack; the value of the railsides as productive habitat and as green corridors cannot be overstated.

## Recording

In 1989 a list of 54 bird species was compiled by the LWT; by 2003 this had been extended to 61 species with the following: Little Egret, Moorhen, Common Snipe, Feral Pigeon, Ring-necked Parakeet, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and Skylark. The following species in the 1989 list were not noted in the period 1994-2003: Tawny Owl, Collared Dove, Meadow Pipit, Fieldfare, Sedge Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher, Coal Tit, Jackdaw and Linnet.

Between 1989 and 1993, recording was not regular, but from 1994 to 2003, weekly notes were kept by LWT members and an annual report was published. Records of flora and invertebrates were also updated in the report, and it is worth noting that the butterfly list had risen to 22 species by 2003, a good total for an urban reserve.

## Systematic list

**Canada Goose:** Small flocks occasionally over.

**Mallard:** A pair frequently January-August, breeding most years, sometimes two broods. The young were invariably predated by corvids or foxes.

**Cormorant:** Singles occasionally over.

**Little Egret:** Two over SE Nov 27th 2001 were later found at the London Wetland Centre, 3km SE.

**Grey Heron:** Visited the pond in most years.

**Sparrowhawk:** Bred annually, successfully in six of the ten years. In 1996 six young were raised. New site each year, always in mature birches.

**Kestrel:** Occasionally hunted over the Reserve up to 2001 and bred near by at Chiswick Back Common in 1996.

**Moorhen:** Bred annually, two broods 1999-2002. Usually absent in January.

**Common Snipe:** One on Jan 11th 1995 in Phragmites bed.

**Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull:**

The above gull spp often flew over, mainly in autumn and winter.

**Feral Pigeon (or Feral Rock Dove):** A population of up to 200 in nearby Chiswick High Road; small numbers regular in the Reserve.

**Woodpigeon:** A stable resident population of up to 15. Two-three pairs bred annually.

**Ring-necked Parakeet:** One-two occasionally, max four over in October 2001.

**Green Woodpecker:** Occasional singles 1998-2003, two Nov 21st 1998.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker:** Singles in all years except 1995. A party of four Sep 10th 1997 had probably bred locally.

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker:** One Feb 2nd 1999.

**Skylark:** One over W Jan 17th 1996.

**Swallow:** Occasionally over in spring up to 1996.

**House Martin:** Occasionally over up to 1999. The nearest Chiswick colonies to this site in the 1980s appeared to be extinct by the mid-1990s.

**Grey Wagtail:** Occasional from 2000. The new lake in Chiswick Business Park to the west attracts the species.

**Pied Wagtail:** Occasionally over in autumn and winter.

**Wren:** Population increased from five territories in 1994 to ten in period 2001-2003, perhaps in part reflecting improvements in habitat management, in particular removal of holm oak and sycamore.

**Dunnock:** Increase from two-three singing males 1994 to five in 2003.

**Robin:** The population rose from five-six singing males in 1994-1996 to ten in 1999 and nine in 2000, adjusting to min seven 2001-2003. A count of 12 in October 1994 indicated passage.

**Blackbird:** A rise from two territories 1994 to five-six 2003.

**Redwing:** Small numbers passed through most winters, with 12 staying eight days in February 1996.

**Song Thrush:** One pair bred 1994-1995 and 2001. Occasional in other years.

**Mistle Thrush:** Only 1999: two over Mar 26th, one Oct 26th.

**Lesser Whitethroat:** Recorded in 1995, 1996 (bred), 1998 (bred), 1999 and 2000.

**Common Whitethroat:** One pair bred almost annually. The brambles along the W edge and the London Overground are very suitable habitat.

**Garden Warbler:** One in May 2000.

**Blackcap:** Bred annually, with two pairs 1999-2000 and three males in song May 9th 2000. Usually two broods.

**Common Chiffchaff:** One pair bred annually, with two broods 2001-2002. Present in all parts of the Reserve in winter, max three December 1994.

**Willow Warbler:** One-two males in song up to 2001 but bred only in 2000.

**Goldcrest:** Up to three every winter; song heard in some years to April. Usually in tit flocks.

**Long-tailed Tit:** Bred annually, with two pairs in 2000 and probably 1996. Max c.20, September 1996.

**Blue Tit:** At least two pairs bred annually.

**Great Tit:** Bred annually, max two pairs.

**Jay:** One pair bred annually in the Reserve or in neighbouring gardens across the District Line.

**Magpie:** One-two pairs bred annually. A winter roost in birches increased from 20 in 1994 to a count of 42 in December 2002.

**Carrion Crow:** One breeding record in 2002. Usually nested in limes along adjacent Bollo Lane.

**Starling:** Up to ten visiting, usually in early summer.

**House Sparrow:** Small numbers visited to feed, eg on hogweed seeds in late summer and nut-feeders in winter. Max 12 in December 1996.

**Chaffinch:** Up to three annually, mainly autumn-winter.

**Greenfinch:** One-two over occasionally.

**Siskin:** One record: min two Nov 2nd 1994.

**Lesser Redpoll:** One-two October-February, in 1994, 1997 and 2000.

**Goldfinch:** Max 11, January 1996; nine March-April 1999, the last record.

*David Rear, Hawthorns, Tuckingmill, Tisbury, Salisbury SP3 6JF*



# The Birds of the Horsenden Hill Area

Andrew Culshaw

## Description of the site

At about 85m (279 feet) above sea level, the summit of Horsenden Hill (Grid Reference TQ162843) is the focal point of a large area of undeveloped land in the northern part of Ealing Borough, approximately 18km (11 miles) west-north-west of St Paul's Cathedral and just north of the A40 trunk road. The recording area considered in this paper is largely shown in the accompanying map, overleaf, (reproduced with the kind permission of Ealing Council's Leisure and Parks Service) and is mainly situated north of the Grand Union Canal between Greenford Road, Greenford and Bridgewater Road, Alperton. Also included (but not shown on the map) are Perivale Wood, which borders the south bank of the canal immediately west of Lower Thrifts, and the portion of the canal as far west as Carr Road.

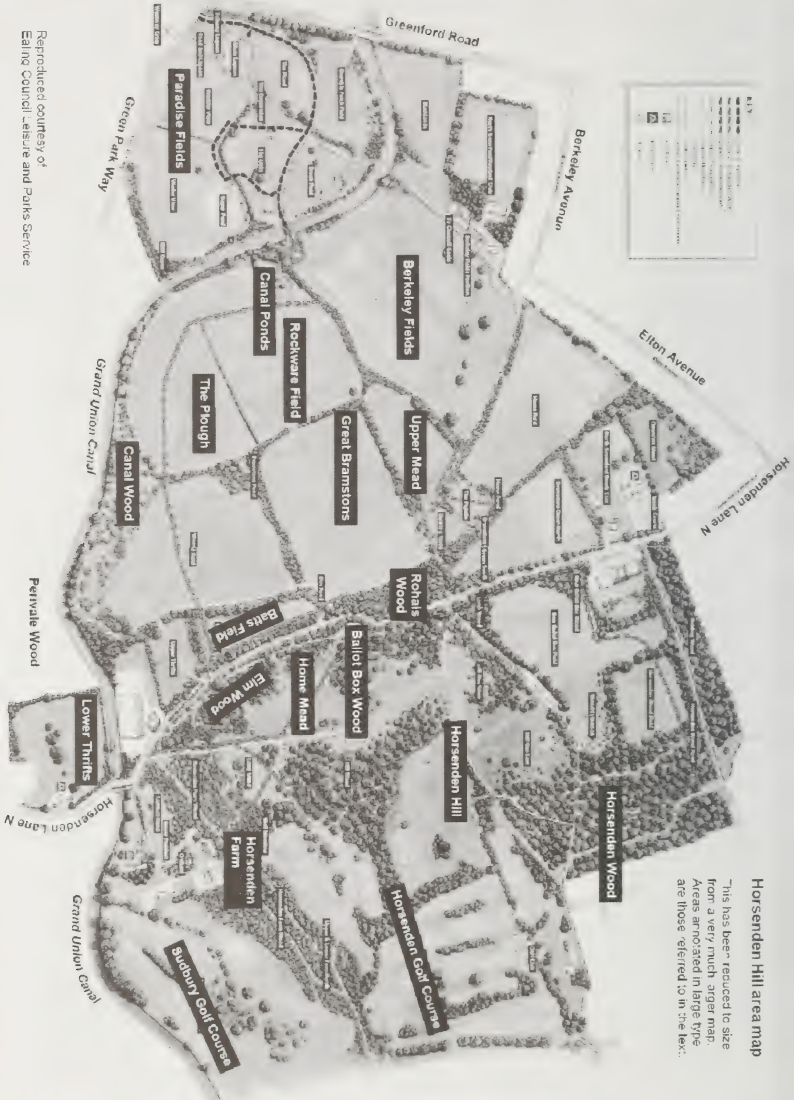
Covering approximately 170ha (420 acres), the Horsenden Hill area contains a great diversity of habitat, including: two small lots of ancient woodland; large tracts of rough grassland that are cut annually to encourage plant diversity; a smaller area of meadow, grazed by cattle during late summer and autumn; extensive hedgerows of blackthorn and hawthorn; a weedy field that is ploughed in late autumn; and a wetland habitat comprising several small ponds and a reed bed. The Paddington arm of the Grand Union Canal runs through the site, and the locality also includes two golf courses and an area of sports pitches. The part of the recording area shown on the map is owned and managed by The London Borough of Ealing, through the Leisure and Parks service.

Access is largely unrestricted, although several areas are fenced off to keep disturbance to a minimum. Sudbury Golf Club (c.37ha (92 acres)) can only be viewed from the canal towpath or the adjacent Horsenden Hill Golf Club; and Carr Road Wetland is sandwiched between an allotment and the canal, with only a small section viewable from the towpath. Perivale Wood (c.11ha (27 acres)) is a nature reserve that is accessible to members of The Selborne Society and their guests. Membership of the society is open to all and provides access to the wood through a key that can be borrowed from Perivale library.

## Object

This paper aims to describe the birdlife of the area, with a focus on recent records to the end of 2008 - but also including historical reports, where available, to provide a more complete picture. Much of the data are drawn from my extensive notes covering the period 1997-2008. There is also a large body of information from other individuals who have shared their records over a similar period - these contributors are listed in the acknowledgements. Additional information has been gleaned from the *London Bird Report*, *The London Naturalist*, the *LNHS Newsletter Ornithological Bulletin*, *The Brent Valley Bird Sanctuary* (3rd Ed., 1911) and archived news stored on the London Bird Club Wiki: ([londonbirders.wikia.com/wiki/LatestNews](http://londonbirders.wikia.com/wiki/LatestNews)).

Reproduced courtesy of Ealing Council Leisure and Parks Service



**Horsenden Hill area map**

"This has been" reduced to size from a very much larger map. Areas annotated in large type are those offered to in the text.

## Value of the site

The main value of the site in the context of this paper is through provision of nesting habitat, with 56 breeding species in the ten-year period to the end of 2008. There are significant roosts of Carrion Crow and Woodpigeon, particularly in winter. The whole area can provide interesting birds during the migration seasons, but some areas are more productive than others: the bushes at Paradise Fields and alongside the canal are attractive to migrant passerines; the summit of Horsenden Hill and the upper slopes of Home Mead can be excellent for observing visible migration, particularly in late autumn; and the fields adjacent to the canal, especially The Plough, are attractive to thrushes, chats and wheatears.

As with many urban and suburban wildlife sites, the area suffers much disturbance from recreational activities - early morning visits, particularly away from weekends, are generally most productive. For the all-round naturalist, Horsenden Hill offers much more than birds. There is an extensive Lepidoptera list which is approaching 700 species, including 27 species of butterfly. White-letter Hairstreak is quite common around regenerating elm from late June to mid-July. The area also has good numbers of Marbled White, and recent observations suggest that small populations of Ringlet and Brown Argus may be present. Dragonflies are also present in good numbers, with 16 species recorded - including the recent colonist, Small Red-eyed Damselfly. There are few mammals, though badger has recently been recorded and water vole occurs. Slow worm is very common, and smooth and great crested newts use some of the small ponds in the area. The fragments of ancient oak woodland represented by Horsenden Wood and Perivale Wood are quite different in character: Horsenden Wood is more open, with an under-storey mainly of hornbeam; whereas Perivale Wood has wider diversity - oak with an under-storey of holly and hazel. Both woods support excellent specimens of wild service, and other noteworthy plants in the area include a lavish spread of Dyer's greenweed and a single specimen of broad-leaved helleborine.

## Systematic list

**Mute Swan:** Common resident that breeds occasionally within the recording area. The Grand Union Canal at Alperton is generally best, with a maximum count of 13 in November 2006.

**White-fronted Goose:** Four SW on Nov 23rd 2007 is the only record.

**Grey geese sp:** A flock of geese heard flying N after dark on Apr 7th 2005 were thought to be Pink-footed Goose based on call, but were accepted as undetermined (*LBR* 2005).

**Greylag Goose:** Rare visitor with just six records. All records are of over-flying birds except one at Paradise Fields from Apr 27th-28th 2003.

**Canada Goose:** Common breeding resident although most nests fall victim to predators. The maximum count is 31 and this species tends to congregate on the Grand Union Canal at Alperton. A regular female bearing orange ring DAZ was ringed as a nestling at Osterley Park in July 2000. A male bearing orange ring DSA, ringed as an adult in Osterley Park, was also seen in 2007.

**Egyptian Goose:** Vagrant, with just one record - three flew NE on Dec 2nd 2006.

**Shelduck:** Vagrant, with just one record - a pair flew NE on Jun 11th 2007.

**Mandarin Duck:** Rare visitor. There have been three records - a pair W over Paradise Fields on Apr 26th 2007 and presumably the same birds over Horsenden summit two days later; a drake on Canal Ponds on Nov 27th 2007 which then flew E.

**Eurasian Wigeon:** Rare visitor to Paradise Fields. A drake from Nov 4th-7th 2001, one on Dec 12th 2004 and a drake from Jan 2nd-12th 2005.

**Gadwall:** Rare visitor. A pair on May 3rd 2003, a female on Feb 26th 2005, and in 2007 a drake from Jan 4th-31st and a pair on Oct 11th.

**Common Teal:** Fairly common winter visitor in generally low single-figure numbers with a maximum count of just six birds.

**Mallard:** Common breeding resident that can become rather scarce during the winter months. Maximum count is of 42 birds on two occasions. A typical year will see six to eight broods around the ponds and canal.

**Shoveler:** Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant, usually in low numbers and with a maximum count of nine birds.

**Tufted Duck:** Scarce visitor and rare breeder. Recorded in most years but not quite annual. May and June are generally the best months, with a high count of seven on May 11th 2004. Nesting was confirmed in 1999 with newly-hatched young on Canal Ponds following a lengthy stay by a pair. A newly-hatched bird with a female on the canal in 2001 could have been reared outside the recording area.

**Smew:** There is a record of a red-head frequenting an ice-free patch of the Grand Union Canal under Greenford Road during a cold snap in the 1980s, but the precise date has been lost.

**Goosander:** Surprisingly, there have been three records, all of single over-flying drakes: Jan 26th 2003, Mar 2nd 2004 and Apr 9th 2006.

**Red-legged Partridge:** One was in the vicinity of Horsenden Farm during a dawn-chorus event on May 8th 1988. Another was found at the same location during autumn 2001 but the exact date has been lost.

**Grey Partridge:** There are no recent records, but there are eight records from Perivale Wood between 1964 and 1968 and several older records listed from the same locality prior to 1911.

**Pheasant:** Formerly this was a fairly common resident, but is now less than annual with occasional long-stayers.

**Little Grebe:** Regular winter visitor and passage migrant, which is mainly seen on the canal in small numbers. Once in the area, birds typically stay for some time, leaving during prolonged cold snaps. Breeding has never taken place, although the odd spring long-stayer has become territorial on Paradise Fields' main pond.

**Great Crested Grebe:** Rare visitor with singles over Perivale Wood on May 7th 1966; on the Grand Union Canal on Apr 16th and May 3rd 1999; at Paradise Fields on Apr 9th-11th 2001 (then presumably the same bird on the canal on May 27th-28th and Jun 4th); and at Paradise Fields on Dec 23rd 2006.

**Cormorant:** Common visitor at all times of the year, with most birds over-flying the site. Larger groups of fishing birds are often encountered on the canal in early mornings, eg 11 on Apr 21st 2007.

**Little Egret:** There is just one record to the end of 2008: a single bird on Paradise Fields on Nov 4th 2006.

**Grey Heron:** Common year-round, non-breeding visitor, with up to five birds on site at a time. One bird was seen catching and swallowing a weasel.

**Honey Buzzard:** Rare visitor, with just one record. A juvenile, dark-morph bird flew S on Oct 1st 2000, part of the national invasion during that autumn (*LBR* 2000).

**Marsh Harrier:** There is just one record of a bird flying W on Aug 30th 2008.

**Hen Harrier:** Rare visitor, with just one record: a ringtail flew E and then S over Paradise Fields on Oct 12th 2001 (*LBR* 2005).

**Sparrowhawk:** Fairly common breeding resident and occasional passage migrant, with one pair nesting annually. There have been reports that suggest either a second pair or second nesting female in odd years. Putative passage birds are seen high overhead during October.

**Common Buzzard:** Formerly a rare visitor, but recent records suggest this species is now a fairly regular passage migrant, principally in April and September–October.

**Osprey:** Rare visitor with just one record. One flew SE on Sep 15th 2005 (*LBR* 2005).

**Kestrel:** Common resident with one pair nesting in the area, or close by, each year. During July, up to four juveniles are regularly seen with the resident adults.

**Hobby:** Fairly common passage migrant and common summer visitor.

**Water Rail:** Rare passage migrant and winter visitor, with most records in September–October.

**Moorhen:** Common breeding resident with typically 15–20 pairs in the area during the breeding season.

**Coot:** Common breeding resident with up to 14 pairs present in most years.

**Oystercatcher:** Rare visitor with two records. One was flying around a mercury-vapour moth-trap in Perivale Wood at 01:00 on Jul 2nd 1967. A single bird called many times as it flew NE over Rockware Field on Sep 10th 2000.

**Little Ringed Plover:** Rare visitor. Two were discovered at Paradise Fields in late June 2000 and a single was at the same location on May 13th 2006.

**Ringed Plover:** The only record is of one at Paradise Fields on Nov 27th 2000.

**European Golden Plover:** Rare visitor with just four records. In 1964 one flew over Perivale on May 3rd. In 2001, 72 flew W on Aug 15th, with a single bird on Oct 20th. On Feb 9th 2007, 17 flew SE over Rockware Field and Perivale Wood shortly after a snow storm.

**Northern Lapwing:** Scarce passage migrant and over-flying winter visitor, with typically just a scattering of records each year, usually of small groups. Grounded birds are exceptionally rare, but in 2000 successful nesting took place on Paradise Fields with at least three downy young present.



**Jack Snipe:** Rare autumn passage migrant and winter visitor, easier to detect before the ponds and reed bed became extensively vegetated.

**Common Snipe:** Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers, with counts rarely reaching double figures. Many of the areas favoured by this species are inaccessible, however, and it could be that it is under-recorded.

**Woodcock:** Scarce but annual autumn passage migrant in small numbers, and rare winter visitor. Early morning visits to the site in late October are best for this species - favoured areas include Horsenden Wood, Home Mead and Horsenden Farm Wood. A roding bird was discovered while moth-trapping at Batts Field, Horsenden Hill on Jun 12th 2004 and there is an older record of one roding in Perivale Wood in May 1962.

**Whimbrel:** One was heard as it flew over on May 14th 1967.

**Curlew:** The only recent record was of one S on Apr 9th 2006. There are four older records from Perivale Wood in each of the years 1965 to 1968.

**Greenshank:** Rare visitor, with singles on Jul 18th 2000 and Aug 4th-5th 2004.

**Green Sandpiper:** Uncommon passage migrant and rare winter visitor. Owing to disturbance, most visits of this species to the area are brief, but there was one long-staying bird from Feb 3rd 2002 to Mar 9th 2002 and another from Sep 1st-7th 2004. Three on Upper Pond on Aug 6th 2000 is the largest count.

**Common Sandpiper:** Recorded a total of seven times from Perivale Wood in 1966-67 and 1970. More recently, in the years immediately following the establishment of the Paradise Fields 'wetland', this species briefly reached the status of 'uncommon but annual passage migrant' at both seasons, e.g. with seven records in autumn 2001. As the vegetation built up around the ponds, habitat has become largely unsuitable and it is now a rare visitor.

**Black-headed Gull:** Abundant non-breeding visitor for most of the year, but decidedly scarce in May and June when most birds are away nesting. Over-flying groups have exceeded 500 individuals and it is not uncommon to find 300+ birds feeding on Berkeley Fields, particularly after prolonged wet spells.

**Common Gull:** Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Most high counts approach three figures and it is not unusual to find c.200 birds around Berkeley Fields from November to March.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Fairly common year-round visitor and probable breeding resident. Usually present in lower numbers than Herring Gull, but occasionally larger groups are present, eg 70 thermalling on Jun 5th 2007. Birds have been observed carrying nesting material on to the factory roofs in the west of the recording area, and freshly fledged juveniles are seen most years. However, breeding has not been proven.

**Yellow-legged Gull:** There are two records that presumably relate to the same individual - an adult on Oct 25th and Nov 16th 2008.

**Herring Gull:** Common breeding resident and occasionally abundant over-flying visitor. Several pairs appear to nest on roof-tops in the west of the area but the exact numbers of pairs have not been determined. There are at least two records of the 'Northern' race *argentatus*.



**Great Black-backed Gull:** Uncommon visitor, mainly in the period between late autumn and early spring. In recent times the site averages about ten records per year, typically of one or two birds at a time. Nearly all the records relate to over-flying birds.

**Kittiwake:** There is one record of a first-winter bird that flew W with Black-headed Gulls on Nov 2nd 2008.

**Sandwich Tern:** One flew NE, calling, on Sep 7th 2008, following a morning of heavy rain.

**Common Tern:** Fairly common summer visitor from mid-April to end July, becoming scarce by August. Most birds are seen hunting along the Grand Union Canal and birds with fish have been noted flying high to the NE, presumably returning to breeding rafts at Brent Reservoir. Mating pairs have been observed on several occasions but nesting is hampered by lack of suitable sites.

**Feral Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon):** Common breeding resident. Autumn flocks numbering up to 300 birds can often be seen on the western fields, particularly on The Plough once the soil has been turned over.

**Stock Dove:** Common breeding resident with 10-15 pairs nesting annually. Autumn sees groups of up to 20 birds on the western fields, typically mixed in with the larger numbers of Feral Pigeons. There is a small roost in Perivale Wood, with the birds flying in before the more abundant Woodpigeons.

**Woodpigeon:** Common breeding resident and occasionally abundant late-autumn migrant, with day counts sometimes into four figures during October-November. There is a large winter roost in Perivale Wood containing 1000-3000 birds.

**Collared Dove:** Fairly common but possibly declining breeding resident. Birds seem to be concentrated along the Canal 'corridor', particularly in the western edge of the recording area. Here, there is a small winter roost around a bread factory that has held up to 24 birds.

**Turtle Dove:** Formerly nested in Perivale Wood, with one or more breeding pairs annually and two young hatched in 1910. Now a scarce passage migrant, with only two records since 2004.

**Ring-necked Parakeet:** The relentless rise of his species at Horsenden Hill is reflected by the fact that the first record, concerning three birds, was as recent as 1999. Nowadays it is a breeding resident and abundant commuter to roost sites outside the recording area. Horsenden is not used as a roost site, but 100-200 birds do stage in the area.

**Cuckoo:** Less-than-annual visitor, principally seen in spring.

**Barn Owl:** There is an intriguing record of one with an unknown number of young, tape-recorded in Perivale Wood on Jul 19th 1974. There are no other specific records, but it is found on Perivale Wood bird lists prior to 1911.

**Little Owl:** Fairly common year-round resident, though with occasional protracted absences. Has been proven to breed on at least two occasions. Paradise Fields and Upper Mead are the most reliable localities.

**Tawny Owl:** Common breeding resident, with at least three pairs thought to nest in the area.

**Short-eared Owl:** One S on Oct 25th 2006 and one S on Oct 4th 2007 are the only records.

**European Nightjar:** A quote in Webb (1911) "in several seasons these birds have lived in the wood" suggests that this species was a regular visitor to Perivale Wood prior to 1911. There are no recent records.

**Common Swift:** Common passage migrant and declining breeding resident, with less than 10 pairs now nesting in buildings on the periphery of the site.

**Kingfisher:** Fairly common breeding resident from at least 1997 to 2003, when it nested annually in the same upturned tree root on the Grand Union Canal, W of Greenford Road. More recently a scarce migrant and winter visitor, with most recorded along the canal.

**Wryneck:** There are no recent records. Webb mentions two nest-boxes being occupied in Perivale Wood in 1910.

**Green Woodpecker:** Common breeding resident, with an estimated breeding population of eight to ten pairs annually.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker:** Common breeding resident with an estimated breeding population in excess of 15 pairs.

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker:** Scarce and apparently declining breeding resident. Formerly quite common in Perivale Wood - eg 68 records from 1971 to 1976 - but probably now just one nesting pair in the whole recording area. The best places to look for this species are currently Home Mead/Elm Wood and Horsenden Wood.

**Skylark:** Scarce spring migrant and fairly common autumn visitor, with occasional winter records during hard weather. Nearly all reports are of over-flying birds; double-figure day-counts are fairly unusual.

**Sand Martin:** Scarce passage migrant at both seasons, with occasional larger groups detected, eg 24 on Sep 16th 2000. A nesting bank has recently been installed on Main Pond, Paradise Fields, but so far it has not been used.

**Swallow:** Breeding resident until the 1950s. Now a common passage migrant at both seasons, with higher numbers in autumn, when day-counts can reach several hundred birds moving through in small groups.

**House Martin:** Breeding resident until the early 1980s. Now a fairly common migrant in spring and autumn. Larger groups are occasionally recorded, such as 300+ over Rockware Field on Oct 9th 2001.

**Tree Pipit:** Scarce passage migrant at both seasons. Typically one to three records per year, with a bias towards early autumn. Nearly all records are of calling overhead birds.

**Meadow Pipit:** Passage migrant at both seasons and scarce winter visitor. No evidence of breeding despite some suitable habitat. More common in autumn, when it can be expected daily in small numbers. There are records of 140+ passing overhead on two dates in October.

**Rock Pipit:** One on The Plough on Oct 25th 2007 before flying W.

**Yellow Wagtail:** Scarce passage migrant at both seasons, but mainly in early autumn. Typically just one to three records per year, mainly involving single overhead birds.

**Grey Wagtail:** Fairly common autumn passage migrant and winter visitor. Occasional nester. In years when nesting takes place, this is usually on the Grand Union Canal west of Greenford Road.

**Pied Wagtail:** Common breeding resident, though most records probably relate to just one resident pair. During most Autumns there is evidence of some overhead passage of *alba* Wagtails. In recent years there has been a small winter roost in trees close to Alperton Bus Garage, with a high count of 60 on Jan 9th 2006. Surprisingly, there have been no confirmed records of White Wagtail.

**Waxwing:** The only recent record is of a group of 25 birds near Perivale Library on Apr 28th 2005, dwindling to 21 on 29th and just ten birds by Apr 30th. There are several older records from Perivale Wood, eg nine records involving up to five birds in February-March 1966 and one near Perivale Station on Oct 2nd 1981.

**Wren:** Abundant breeding resident. Data from Perivale Wood suggested a breeding population of around 35 pairs in 1981. A recent estimate of the same area suggested approximately half that number. One nest of eight fully-fledged young was emptied by a weasel in 2005.

**Duncock:** Common breeding resident. Perivale Wood alone held 22 pairs in 1981 but a systematic count of the whole Horsenden recording area revealed only 25 singing males in 2005.

**Robin:** Abundant breeding resident with numbers enhanced by migrants and winter visitors. Common Bird Census work revealed 30 pairs in Perivale Wood in 1981, but there are no recent data.

**Nightingale:** According to Webb (1911) there were seven to eight pairs in and around Perivale Wood in 1910, with other records prior to 1902 and in 1908-09. Surprisingly, given the abundance of dense, scrubby habitat at the site, there has been just one modern-day record - discovered during a bird race on May 5th 1991.

**Common Redstart:** Scarce passage migrant at both seasons with up to three records per year.

**Whinchat:** Scarce spring and fairly common autumn migrant. Despite the abundance of habitat, eg on The Plough, this species does not reach the numbers found at nearby Wormwood Scrubs. Typically one to three birds are present but they do not stay around long enough for numbers to build up. There is one early June record.

**European Stonechat:** Regular passage migrant at both seasons, though autumn is best. Erratic winter visitor involving up to three birds. Paradise Fields and The Plough are the best areas for both passage and wintering birds.

**Northern Wheatear:** Regular passage migrant at both seasons. A typical year will produce around six records of single birds and there are occasional multiple arrivals of up to six birds.

**Ring Ouzel:** Uncommon passage migrant. Less than annual and mainly recorded in late autumn.

**Blackbird:** Abundant breeding resident with numbers boosted by autumn passage migrants and winter visitors. In the late 1960s there was an established winter roost in Perivale Wood that regularly reached three figures.

**Fieldfare:** Common passage migrant and winter visitor, though gatherings of grounded birds are generally restricted to periods of cold weather. Groups of 100+ are unusual.

**Song Thrush:** Common breeding resident and passage migrant, with some late autumn birds showing characteristics of the continental race *Turdus philomenos philomelos*. The breeding population seems stable at around 16 pairs, with an exceptional 22 singing birds on Feb 1st 2007. A movement on Oct 17th 2006 involved at least 50 birds, and c.90 were seen on Oct 15th 2007.

**Redwing:** Very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Groups of 100+ are fairly regular and are typically found around the playing fields or flying over.

**Mistle Thrush:** Common breeding resident with three to six pairs nesting annually. After the young have fledged, it can become difficult to see from early summer into autumn. Thereafter it is a fairly common winter visitor and uncommon passage migrant, eg 11 S on Oct 10th 2001.

**Grasshopper Warbler:** There are just two records of this notorious skulker - one on Apr 27th 1996 (*LBR* 1996) and another recorded during Common Bird Census work in Perivale Wood during spring 1981.

**Sedge Warbler:** Generally uncommon passage migrant, though with occasional boom years. It is commonest as a spring migrant and there are few autumn records. This species is a rare breeding bird at Horsenden, with just two recent nesting records.

**Reed Warbler:** Common breeding summer visitor and fairly common passage migrant. This species was fairly rare on the main part of the site until the reed-bed was established in 2000. The main reed-bed has held up to eight pairs, with other pairs occasionally using sub-optimal habitat at Horsenden Farm or in Perivale Wood. Carr Road Wetland in the west of the area is also thought to hold high single figures of nesting pairs, but access is difficult.

**Blackcap:** Very common passage migrant and breeding summer visitor. Very rare winter visitor. The nesting population seems stable or slightly increasing, at 23-25 pairs. Counts during peak passage times can approach 30 birds but many of these will be local nesters.

**Garden Warbler:** Fairly common passage migrant, mainly in spring but generally involving single birds. Rare breeder, with perhaps one pair nesting from time to time in Canal Wood.

**Lesser Whitethroat:** Fairly common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant, with one to three pairs nesting annually. Seven on Aug 24th 2001 was a good count of passage birds.

**Common Whitethroat:** Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant with 14-17 pairs nesting annually. Day-counts on spring passage occasionally reach in excess of 25 birds on good days, with autumn numbers generally smaller and evidence of passage obscured by the presence of locally-reared birds.

**Wood Warbler:** Rare passage migrant with singles recorded on Apr 21st 2002, Apr 23rd 2004, Aug 20th 2005, Aug 6th 2007 and Apr 29th 2008.

**Common Chiffchaff:** Common passage migrant at both seasons and common breeding summer visitor with c.12-14 territories. Day-counts of 20+ individuals during peak spring migration are not uncommon. Rare winter visitor.

**Willow Warbler:** Common passage migrant at both seasons, but declining as a nesting bird. As recently as the late 1990s there were five territories, but this had dropped to one nesting pair by 2008.

**Goldcrest:** Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Uncommon as a breeding species, with up to three pairs nesting annually; the most regularly used sites are Rohais Wood/Ballot Box area and the Grand Union Canal near The Black Horse.

**Firecrest:** Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. Perivale Wood is the best place to see this species in the Horsenden area, with one or two birds wintering here in most recent years. Away from this site it is a rare visitor.

**Spotted Flycatcher:** Formerly a breeding summer visitor to Perivale Wood, but now a scarce or occasionally fairly common passage migrant, most easily discovered in autumn. Most records are of single birds but small groups, presumably family parties, are occasionally found.

**Pied Flycatcher:** Rare passage migrant with records from Apr 30th 1995 (*LBR* 1995), Apr 29th and Aug 23rd 2001, Sep 14th 2004 and Apr 18th 2006. There are some older records from Perivale Wood, but these are not specifically dated.

**Long-tailed Tit:** Common breeding resident. Occasionally, pre-roost parties reach 40+ birds.

**Blue Tit:** Common breeding resident. A nine-year nest-box study in Perivale Wood showed that Blue Tit breeding density increases as more nest boxes are provided, but that Great Tit breeding density remains constant.

**Great Tit:** Common breeding resident. See comments under Blue Tit, above.

**Coal Tit:** Formerly fairly common as a breeding bird, but now just the odd pair nests in gardens adjoining the main part of the site. Most-frequently encountered as a winter visitor, but there are records for all months of the year.

**Willow Tit:** A scarce resident in Perivale Wood until early 1976, with successful nesting proven on at least one occasion. In keeping with this species' widespread decline, there are no recent records.

**Marsh Tit:** Formerly a scarce breeding resident with 56 records from Perivale Wood between 1964 and 1970. A nest was found with at least three young on Jun 6th 1964 and a juvenile was seen with an adult on Jul 24th 1970. There are no recent records.

**Nuthatch:** Currently a breeding resident with one to two nesting pairs. In recent years the population has fluctuated from periods of sustained absence to, at other times, being restricted to visiting during winter.

**Treecreeper:** Former breeding resident that has become a rare winter visitor in recent times, occurring less than annually. There is plenty of suitable nesting habitat in the area, making this species' local rarity status something of a mystery.

**Golden Oriole:** There is currently one accepted record of this species on Horsenden - a well-watched individual from May 16th-20th 1996 (*LBR* 1996). However, there have been several other reports - including one written up for The Selborne Society newsletter - that have never been formally submitted.

**Red-backed Shrike:** There are no recent records, but this species was once a nesting summer visitor to Perivale Wood. Webb mentions two pairs in 1905, one nest in 1908 and a pair nesting in a hedge outside the wood in 1910.

**Jay:** Common breeding resident but with typical day-counts seldom reaching double figures. Occasionally birds are seen crossing the site at great height during autumn, suggesting migration rather than the usual lower-altitude local forays.

**Magpie:** Common breeding resident. There is an established winter roost around Canal Ponds/Upper Pond which has attracted 50 to 70+ birds. Further small roosts have been noted on the N edge of Perivale Wood and E of Horsenden Farm.

**Jackdaw:** Fairly common visitor at any season. There are no recent confirmed breeding records, though a family party with fledged, but still begging, young has been recorded. Occasional larger parties in late autumn have suggested passage migrants.

**Rook:** This species is a genuinely rare visitor to the area, even going back to the 1960s, but recently a small number of birds have been detected overhead. These have mainly been single birds in March and April, with one bird 'down' with Carrion Crows in April 2007.

**Carrion Crow:** Common breeding resident. There is a large year-round roost in Perivale Wood that regularly attracts four-figure numbers, eg 1,200 on Jan 28th 2001. Large numbers of birds can be seen staging on the fields around Horsenden Hill from about two hours before dusk. This is a long-established roost that seemed to begin in the early 1970s, eg 230 on Aug 4th 1971 - at the time, the largest group recorded at the site.

**Hooded Crow:** Of historical interest, there are several records from the early 1950s. In 1952, one to four birds were seen on five occasions between Nov 9th and Dec 28th; and a party of four with 143 Carrion Crows on Nov 22nd (*LBR* 1952). In 1953, four with c.150 Carrion Crows gathering to roost at Perivale Wood on Jan 17th and Feb 1st, were also seen in the second winter period that year. One bird lingered into 1954 and was seen on Jan 3rd and Mar 29th (*LBR* 1953, 1954).

**Starling:** Common breeding resident and occasionally common passage migrant. The largest groups of up to 400 birds are typically found in late May, when numbers of adult birds are augmented by first-brood juveniles. The largest passage count was of 700+ W on Nov 1st 2007.



**House Sparrow:** Fairly common breeding resident, mainly around the built-up periphery of the site, with about 20 nesting pairs. There is a small winter gathering alongside the Grand Union Canal opposite Sudbury Golf Club that reaches 25-40+ birds in most years. That there has been a significant decline in this species locally is evidenced by a count of 250 in Perivale Wood on Apr 17th 1971.

**Tree Sparrow:** This species never seems to have been particularly common in the area, even prior to its precipitous decline in numbers nationally. There were 12+ nests in Perivale Wood in 1910 and 27 records from this site in 1964-1970, including several reports of confirmed breeding. There is an earlier record of 20 in a winter roost at Perivale Wood on Nov 25th 1961. In the early 1970s there were only a few more records, perhaps suggesting the start of a decline. *Birds of the London Area* (1964) lists Horsenden Hill as a breeding locality but without any dates. There are only two recent records of single birds on Horsenden Hill on Oct 19th 2002 and Aug 5th 2006.

**Chaffinch:** Fairly common breeding resident, with six to eight nesting pairs. Can be a very common passage migrant, particularly in late autumn, when several hundred have been recorded passing overhead in favourable migration conditions. The wintering population is never very large, rarely reaching 20 individuals.

**Brambling:** Uncommon autumn passage migrant, with very few reports of double-figure counts such as the 15 that flew NW on Oct 15th 2007. Most encounters are of single birds heard overhead with passing Chaffinches, though there are a couple of records of birds 'down'.

**Greenfinch:** Common breeding resident, with about 14 pairs mostly nesting in the residential periphery of the site. In some years a small winter roost develops around The Ballot Box pub or in conifers near to The Black Horse pub, eg 80 on Jan 2nd 2006.

**Goldfinch:** Common breeding resident, with around 10+ pairs nesting annually. Occasionally birds are detected with over-flying Chaffinches, suggesting some passage. The winter population is not high - typically low double figures in the area - but in early autumn, large groups gather around creeping thistle seed-heads and low three-figure counts are not unusual.

**Siskin:** Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Most records are of over-flying migrants in late autumn, but 'downed' birds are not uncommon in small numbers.

**Linnet:** One or two pairs nest each year on the lower fields and in early autumn up to 20 birds regularly join the Goldfinch flocks. There is evidence of small-scale autumn passage in most years. In some winters, a small roost of up to 30 birds occurs around Great Bramstons or on Paradise Fields.

**Lesser Redpoll:** Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor, but generally less frequent and in lower numbers than Siskin. All 'redpolls' that have been seen well have proved to be *cabaret* and to date there have been no records of *Mealy Redpoll*, though it presumably does occur from time to time. There is a record of three singing birds in Perivale Wood on Apr 30th 1972 and two nests at the same site in 1910.

**Common Crossbill:** There is just one record of a female-type bird overhead on Aug 27th 2001.

**Bullfinch:** Common breeding resident, with possibly eight to ten pairs nesting in the area.

**Hawfinch:** Rare visitor, with no recent records. One was recorded in Perivale Wood during Jan 1962. There are five records from Horsenden Hill or Perivale Wood between Apr 1st and July 22nd 1964. The maximum count was of three on Apr 18th and both males and females were seen; the time of year suggests local nesting. The only other records are from the winter of 1966 with three sightings of up to two birds between Jan 17th and Feb 26th.

**Yellowhammer:** Horsenden Hill is listed as a breeding locality in *The Birds of the London Area* (1964) and there are six records from Perivale Wood from 1964-1967. The only modern record is of one near the main car park on Apr 12th 1987.

**Reed Bunting:** Common breeding resident with four to five pairs present on the main part of the site in most years and a further one or more pairs at the Carr Road Wetland. Becomes less common during the winter months and is only occasionally detected as a probable passage migrant.

**Corn Bunting:** There is one record of a single bird in Perivale Wood on Aug 28th 1965. While there are no specific dates recorded, this species is also on a list of birds seen at Perivale Wood prior to 1911.

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## Bird highlights at Alexandra Park, 2008

*Andrew Gardener*

*Another record-breaking year with a species tally of 110, compared to last year's total of 108. One new species, Raven, was added to the all-time list, bringing the overall total to 167 species for the Study Area. Alas, the Raven was just a flyover, only seen by a couple of lucky observers.*

As with every year there have been ups and downs; and, despite the high year-list, some species were noticeable by their reduced sightings or total absence from the Park. A case in point for the latter was the Ruddy Duck: this had become a regular, if a little scarce, visitor and had even nested successfully on the Boating Pond not too long ago; however, the culling of this species has definitely had an impact. Yellow-legged Gull also was not recorded this year, although a bird was seen early in January that looked good; but after studying some imagery, it was decided not to include it. There was another near miss - which, if it could have been positively identified, would have been a really good species tick for the Park - when a probable Skua was seen very high above the Study Area.

### Decreases

Species showing distinctly poorly included Mediterranean Gull, which after the bumper showing in 2006 was only recorded on one date. Other species that are getting harder to see in the Park include Treecreeper, Bullfinch and Reed Bunting. The last two were once resident breeding species. However, Reed Bunting was totally absent last year, so we must be at least grateful for its reappearance in the Park. Only three wader species were seen this year: although the Park has never scored very highly, three is very poor indeed. Only two individual Common Sandpipers were seen, which make this one of the poorest years for them on record.

### Increases

On the plus side, Little Egret, Osprey and Peregrine Falcon were all seen - and all at least twice, which is very encouraging. Turtle Dove was also seen for the first time since 1999, albeit a brief, single-observer record. A very impressive hybrid falcon paid a few visits to the Park: it was filmed on a camcorder, tussling with Carrion Crows around the Palace building, which made for good viewing. Ring Ouzel, Wood Warbler, Firecrest and Pied Flycatcher were all recorded, with at least four individuals of the last species - and many of the regular birders were able to catch up with most of them too. Red Kite sightings continued, with three birds being seen together on one occasion.

### Breeding

Nuthatch had its best season on record, with five nests. There was no attempt by Little Grebes, after trying in the last two years; and Great Crested Grebes failed in their attempt. Stock Dove numbers appeared to remain stable, as did Goldcrest, and Great Spotted and Green Woodpecker. At least three Pochard broods were observed, which is good for this nationally scarce breeder. Ring-necked Parakeets keep threatening to colonise, but still are only classed as a visitor to the Study Area.

*Andrew Gardener, 50 Springfield Avenue, Muswell Hill, London, N10 3SY*

## Bird highlights at Beddington Farm, 2008

### *Kevin Guest*

*Beddington Farm's mixed habitats attracted a variety of species throughout the year. The refuse tip attracted large numbers of gulls. The lake had good numbers of wintering wildfowl and passage waders. The Southeast corner and 100 Acre hosted breeding birds. Ringing took place in the storm tanks. A colony of Tree Sparrows remained on site all year.*

### Seasonal regulars

WINTER: Little Egret, Green Sandpiper, Water Pipit, Jack Snipe and Water Rail wintered, Shelduck were present, Yellow-legged Gull and Mediterranean Gull were regular visitors to the refuse tip.

SPRING: Yellow Wagtail, Northern Wheatear, Redshank, Greenshank, Ringed Plover, Little Ringed Plover and Common Sandpiper visited the farm.

SUMMER: Peregrine Falcon, Barn Owl, Green Sandpiper and Common Sandpiper were present.

AUTUMN: Green Sandpiper, Common Sandpiper, Common Buzzard and Yellow-legged Gull were regularly seen on the refuse tip.

JANUARY: On the 1st, an escape female Ringed Teal was noted. Different Glaucous Gulls were noted from the 2nd until the 14th. A Dartford Warbler was seen on the 6th. Two Egyptian Geese and four Water Pipits were noted on the 13th.

FEBRUARY: Four Egyptian geese were noted on the 7th. Caspian Gulls were regularly recorded throughout the month. Five Little Egrets were seen on the 9th. An Iceland Gull visited the refuse tip on the 15th. Common Buzzards were seen during the latter part of the month.

MARCH: This month featured several raptors including Peregrine Falcon. A Red Kite flew over the lake on the 20th. Ruddy Duck were recorded on the 21st, 23rd and 24th. An Osprey flew NW on the 27th. The month's Common Buzzard passage peaked with six on the 26th. Three Redshanks were seen on the 31st.

APRIL: This month produced Little Gull on the 3rd and 23rd. Red Kite flew over on the 3rd and 25th. A Tree Pipit was noted on the 7th. A Brent Goose and a White Wagtail were noted on the 14th. A Garganey was recorded on the scrape on the 16th. Dunlin were noted from the 17th. A Barn Owl and a Grey Plover were seen on the 19th. A Ring Ouzel was present on the 19th, 20th and 22nd. Five Whimbrel flew over the lake on the 20th. A male Hen Harrier flew NW on the 21st. A Wood Sandpiper was noted from the 27th. Common Buzzard passage continued. Three Hobbys were seen during the month.

MAY: A Marsh Harrier flew W on the 1st. A Madagascar Teal visited from the 2nd; this bird is the Farm's rarest escape, which was a resident at London Zoo. Two Osprey flew over on the 3rd and one on the 16th. Two Red Kites were observed flying N and NE on the 7th and a Midlands tagged bird on the 13th. A Knot was recorded on the 8th. A Little Tern visited the lake briefly, flying SW on the 17th.

A Fulmar flew low S over the lake on the 25th. Two Sanderling and five Redshank were noted on the 26th. A Short-eared Owl flew S and 27 Ringed Plover visited the lagoons on the 27th.

JUNE: A Cuckoo was seen on the 1st. A tagged Red Kite flew N and three Hobbies were noted on the 3rd. A Little Stint spent a day on the lake and five Yellow-legged Gulls were noted on the 11th.

JULY: Two Curlew flew over the lake on the 5th, and one on the 6th and 15th. A Dunlin was seen on the 14th. Greenshanks were recorded from the 23rd. A Black-tailed Godwit was seen on the 26th, three Little Ringed Plover on the 27th, and 26 Green Sandpipers on the 28th. A Red Kite flew W on the 30th.

AUGUST: A Wood Sandpiper was noted from the 2nd until the 7th, and from the 18th until the 27th. Black-tailed Godwits were seen on the 3rd, 5th and 15th. Garganey were present from the 11th until the 14th. Seven Dunlin were noted on the 14th. Four Greenshanks were seen on the 16th. Surrey's longest-staying Knot arrived on the 23rd.

SEPTEMBER: The Knot remained until the 7th. A Ruff joined the Knot on the 1st and remained until the 17th. On the 7th, a Wryneck was trapped in the storm tanks in the SE corner; this was the first record for the Farm. An Osprey, a Dunlin and an Arctic Tern were other highlights of this memorable day. Another first for the Farm, a Great Egret, arrived on the main lake on the 21st, and a Common Crossbill flew over. A Honey Buzzard flew SSW and a Ring Ouzel was noted on the 29th.

OCTOBER: A Rock Pipit was present on the 4th and 13th, and two on the 21st. A Sanderling was noted on the 10th. A Red-breasted Merganser flew W on the 23rd. A Short-eared Owl was seen on the 28th and 29th.

NOVEMBER: A Short-eared Owl flew SE on the 6th. A Dartford Warbler was found on the 16th. Four Water Pipits were noted on the 18th. A Goosander was noted on the 23rd. Two Ravens were seen briefly on the pylons on the 25th. A Long-eared Owl was found on the 27th.

DECEMBER: Long-eared Owl numbers peaked at four on the 5th and 6th. A Short-eared Owl was seen on the 14th. A Kittiwake flew S on the 15th and two flew SW on the 18th. A Red-breasted Merganser flew S on the 16th, and an Iceland Gull was noted on the refuse tip from the 16th until the 19th and from the 29th until the 31st. A Woodcock was noted on the 31st. Caspian Gulls were frequent visitors to the refuse tip during the month.

*Kevin Guest, Beddington Farm Bird Group*

## Bird highlights at Brent Reservoir, 2008

*Ian Ellis*

*The improved coverage of 2007 increased further in 2008; this probably played a part in the species count reaching a very respectable 138 - well above the recent average of around 130 and the highest tally since 1997. Whilst no new species were recorded, there were a few records broken and many good birds - including several species not seen at Brent for decades.*

**JANUARY:** Up to three Water Rails, 33 Common Snipe and 30 Siskins could be encountered throughout the month, plus good numbers of wildfowl including around a hundred Common Teal. Occasionally there were sightings of Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Blackcap, Common Chiffchaff and Lesser Redpolls, in addition to the more regular Brent winter species.

**FEBRUARY:** The first Greylag Goose, Yellow-legged Gulls and Eurasian Wigeon of the year were seen in the first half, with a Tawny Owl flushed by Jays from trees in the East Marsh on 9th. Annual maxima of Pochard (76) and Common Gull (416) occurred on 17th and 24th respectively - the latter being a new record count. A Kestrel was displaying on the last day of the month, and a Bearded Tit - the first for 17 years - was reported by a contractor working in the reedbed at around this time.

**MARCH:** Up to 61 Fieldfares frequented Woodfield Park in the first week; but there were early signs of spring on 8th, with a singing Redwing and no fewer than 39 singing Dunnocks spread around the site! Three Kingfishers were present on 9th. Mid-month brought the first Northern Lapwing and Sand Martin on 15th, with two Oystercatchers dropping in on 16th. The less-than-annual Brent scarcity of Pheasant was ticked on 21st with a cock bird calling near the rifle-range. Increasing migration was evident in the last days of the month with Redshank, Willow Warbler, Northern Wheatear and Swallow all appearing between 26th-31st. The burgeoning NW London population of Ring-necked Parakeets was signalled on 31st, with 30+ birds frequenting trees behind the dam.

**APRIL:** An Osprey and 70+ Meadows Pipits headed N on 4th, with another Brent irregular, Mandarin Duck, present on 5th. The first House Martins appeared on 10th, plus another Northern Wheatear. The last Fieldfares departed on 11th, and displaying Sparrowhawks were frequently observed. A Little Ringed Plover arrived on 12th, then on 13th the first returning Common Sandpipers and Common Tern put in an appearance; but they were eclipsed by the sighting of a second migrant Osprey, which circled over the reservoir briefly before continuing N. The first Yellow Wagtail and Sedge Warbler arrived on 14th, then the pace really stepped up during the second half with: Green Sandpiper (16th); Common Whitethroat (17th); Nightingale, Reed Warbler (18th); Lesser Whitethroat (19th); the year's only Black Tern (20th); Greenshank (23rd); Common Swift (24th); the year's only Egyptian Geese (25th), Hobby, Turtle Dove, Garden Warbler (26th); Tree Pipit, Black Redstart (28th); and Little Egret (30th). During the latter half of April there were also higher-than-usual counts of Whimbrel (4 days / 6 birds), Arctic Tern (4 / 13) and Little Gull (3 / 5), plus Peregrine Falcon and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.



**MAY:** A third Osprey circled over the reservoir on the morning of 3rd, making this spring the best ever for encountering this species. A Little Tern passed through the following day. With the East Marsh slowly silting up, there was more mud available than in previous years and an improved wader passage: Greenshanks, Northern Lapwings, up to ten Common Sandpipers and a pair of displaying Little Ringed Plover were regularly seen during the first half, supplemented by Redshank (7th), Oystercatcher (11th), Wood Sandpiper (14th-16th), Ringed Plover (15th) and Dunlin (15th-17th). The second half was quiet in comparison, although with continued wader interest and further sightings of Hobby and Little Egret.

**JUNE:** The only Cuckoo of the year was seen in the oak wood on 8th, this being the same place and one day earlier than the lone sighting of 2007. Nuthatch is historically scarcer than Cuckoo at Brent, and so two birds - also in the oak wood - on 15th were notable for being the highest number ever recorded at the site! There were one or two Green Sandpipers regular from 9th onwards, plus occasional Redshank and Ringed Plover. With the BTO Breeding Atlas survey in full swing, attention had by now switched to breeding birds, and there was confirmed or probable breeding evidence for Kestrel, Sparrowhawk, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Grey Wagtail, Stock Dove, Bullfinch and Reed Bunting (amongst many others).

**JULY:** Up to eight Little Ringed Plovers were present through the first half. Redshank and Hobby were seen on 6th, with the latter also present on 19th when it harassed some of the 1,600 Common Swifts that had amassed by that date. There were another Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, a Peregrine Falcon and two Little Egrets on 13th. Highlights of the second half were the first Common Crossbill for 11 years, which flew over the dam early on 26th, then a juvenile Garganey and two early-returning Common Snipe the following morning.

**AUGUST:** The July Garganey remained until 11th; and the first Spotted Flycatcher of the year was seen on 16th, followed by six other birds on dates up to 30th. On 23rd Tree Pipit and Yellow Wagtail were both present; seven Common Whitethroats and two Garden Warblers were the last of both those species for the year, but the same could not be said of the 32 Common Chiffchaffs counted! The 30th was notable for the only Whinchat of the year, four Tawny Owls calling at as many different locations, and a record count of 62 Ring-necked Parakeets.

**SEPTEMBER:** The last Sand Martins departed on 6th, followed by Common Terns on 7th, when also two Arctic Skuas passed through, and there was another juvenile Garganey present plus Greenshank and Whimbrel. The last Common Swifts headed S on 10th. On 14th there were further sightings of Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and Tree Pipit, plus a Common Redstart. Some 40 House Martins on 17th were the last of the year, and three Common Buzzards passed through on 20th. On 21st there were annual maxima for Gadwall (109), Shoveler (104), Ruddy Duck (30), Eurasian Wigeon (6) and Redshank (3), followed by a Pintail the next day. The 28th was a memorable day, with the last Tree Pipit, first returning Redwings, Northern Wheatear, European Stonechat, adult Mediterranean Gull, finch passage, and the first Great Grey Shrike since 1975 - which took up residence in the north bank scrub until early October. Another good bird - a Short-eared Owl - turned up on 30th and was watched being chased by crows as it flew above the oak wood.

**OCTOBER:** Greylag Goose is mostly just a spring passage migrant in single figures at Brent, so a flock of 27 heading S on 2nd was a surprise and constituted the largest

flock for many years. Ten Lesser Redpoll also headed S on 4th. A Dunlin was present on 5th; then on 12th: Peregrine Falcon; Brambling; Little Egret; the only Great Black-backed Gull of the year; and a long-staying adult Mediterranean Gull. Plenty of migration activity on 13th included the last Swallow, 33 Chaffinch, 22 Greenfinch and 42 Jackdaws. A pair of Pintail were present on 15th, including a long-staying male. The next day saw the arrival of another long-stayer when a singing Cetti's Warbler took up residence for four weeks. Annual maxima of Little Grebe (28) and Moorhen (88) occurred on 19th, when a Green Sandpiper was also present. A late Hobby passed through on 22nd, followed by further Short-eared Owl and Brambling on 25th, then Common Buzzard and Peregrine Falcon on 29th.

NOVEMBER: Lots of migration on 1st included 86 Fieldfares and 137 Redwings, but also the first Hawfinch since one on the same date in 1991. Six Water Rail were counted on 2nd, whilst on 3rd a group of nine Golden Plover headed E. A Lesser Spotted Woodpecker reappeared on 5th, followed by several further winter sightings, however another of the annual highlights came three days later on 8th when a large flock of around 75 Waxwings flew SW. A Redshank was present on 15th and the following day saw the peak Coot count of the year, at 734 birds. On 23rd a Firecrest was located near the East Marsh, two further Redshank flew in on 26th and the only Woodcock of the year was found on 29th.

DECEMBER: The first Long-eared Owl for 11 years was seen on the evening of 1st, and on subsequent dates early in the month. On 2nd the Ring-necked Parakeet record was smashed again, when 89 birds were seen flying to roost; ten years earlier this species was barely annual, and only encountered in single figures. A Tawny Owl was calling on 3rd, but far more notable was a Little Owl at the dump, on 4th and subsequent evenings - the first at Brent since 1964! A Brambling was present on 6th and the six Red-crested Pochards that flew in on 8th constituted the largest ever group. Tufted Duck peaked at 279 on 14th, when a pair of Common Goldeneye were also present. The month continued in excellent form on 15th when four Bewick's Swans circled around, prior to heading to Hilfield Park Reservoir. Female Peregrine Falcon and male Firecrest were seen on 17th, the latter encountered regularly until the year end and joined by a second bird from 24th onwards. On 20th a Yellowhammer was notable, whilst Common Snipe peaked at a very respectable 43 on 21st.

*Ian Ellis, 9 Westbury Road, Woodside Park, Middlesex, N12 7NY*

## Bird highlights at Crossness, 2008

*John Archer*

*2008 will be most widely remembered for the superb White-winged Black Tern which delighted numerous observers for five days in August, and an all-too-brief Richard's Pipit which frustrated all but the quickest-arriving observers in May. The year also saw the first site records of Manx Shearwater, Arctic Skua, Short-eared Owl and, perhaps most surprising of all, Hawfinch, and the second Dartford Warbler and Egyptian Geese. The major disappointment of the year was that Barn Owls, following last year's two broods that successfully fledged, failed to breed - and indeed there was just a single record all year.*

**JANUARY:** While there were no unusual birds during the month, the year opened with some impressive wader numbers, including 320 Northern Lapwing and 102 Black-tailed Godwits on 1st, and 1100 Dunlin on 19th and 26th. The month also saw the annual peak counts for several ducks, with 850 Teal and 136 Gadwall on 1st and 107 Shoveler on 6th.

**FEBRUARY:** Northern Lapwings peaked at 379 on 9th, and Teal at 840 the following day. Also on 10th, a Jack Snipe was on the wader scrape in front of the hide. A Dartford Warbler in riverside scrub near the Lighthouse on 13th was just the second record for the site; unfortunately, it didn't linger.

**MARCH:** The first summer visitors of the year were two Northern Wheatears on 17th.

**APRIL:** A Ruff was by the sewage outfall on 11th, probably the first record since 2003. Summer migrants began to arrive in earnest, with the first Common Whitethroat on 15th and Blackcap on 19th. The 20th was a good day, with three Arctic Terns, two adult Little Gulls and a female Pintail all flying E along the Thames, the last-mentioned being the only record of the year. The same day saw the first arrivals of many common migrants, including Common Tern, Common Swift, Swallow, Sand Martin and Sedge Warbler, along with three Yellow Wagtails (which are rather less than common at Crossness). Two more Arctic Terns were on the river on 26th, followed by a Sandwich Tern the next day. A male Ring Ouzel was seen briefly in riverside scrub between the Golf Centre and the lighthouse on 28th before flying south.

**MAY:** A Greenshank was on West Paddock on 4th; but it was the following day which saw the first major excitement of the year: a Wood Sandpiper was found on West Paddock early morning on 5th, the third Crossness record. An observer looking for the Wood Sand then found a Richard's Pipit on East Paddock, presumably the bird which had been at Rainham about a week before. (Coincidentally, the last Wood Sandpiper at Crossness was in May 2004 and was also overshadowed by a rarer bird, sharing West Paddock with a Temminck's Stint.) The Richard's Pipit stayed for just over an hour, allowing a few Dartford birders to twitch it, but leaving many more hanging around frustrated. Observers hoping that the pipit might reappear then found an adult Grey-headed Gull, which caused brief interest before being traced as an escape from London Zoo's Snowdon Aviary (indeed, it may have been a hybrid with Silver Gull). Also on 5th, a Tree Pipit dropped briefly into East Paddock, a Rook

flew over the Golf Centre, and one Arctic and two Black Terns were on the river. The Wood Sandpiper remained the following day, when a male *flava* wagtail - either a Grey-headed or Ashy-headed Wagtail - dropped briefly on to West Paddock, clearly showing a dark-grey head lacking a supercilium, but not allowing views of its throat. The Greenshank also returned (or another was present) on 6th, remaining until 9th. A male Blue-headed Wagtail was on West Paddock on 13th (coincidentally, the previous Crossness record was also on West Paddock in May 2004, side by side with the aforementioned Wood Sandpiper and Temminck's Stint). A Sanderling flew around over the Thames on 17th, to be followed by another on the foreshore W of the jetty on 24th, and a flock of nine flying downriver on 26th. A first-summer Little Gull was seen on the Thames on 24th, and it or another flew downriver on 26th. An adult Kittiwake was around the sewage outfall on 27th and again on 29th.

JUNE: Normally a quiet month, June started with a bang. Three Egyptian Geese flying W over the golf course with Canadas on 1st were the second Crossness record, and the first since 2002. The same day, two rather unseasonal Little Terns were off the Golf Centre, and two Jackdaws flew over the Ridgeway towards Southern Marsh. After that, normality returned, and the rest of the month was quiet.

JULY: A quiet month saw the year's peak count of 249 Shelduck on 6th, while the first juvenile Mediterranean Gull of the year was at the sewage outfall on 13th.

AUGUST: The year's only Turnstone was on the foreshore off Crossness Engines on 2nd. The undoubted bird of the year, a moulting adult White-winged Black Tern, fed around the power station outfall from 10th-14th, occasionally moving downriver to the sewage outfall, and delighted dozens of observers. A Greenshank moved around between the foreshore and the incinerator pond on 11th, with one or two seen on several further dates until early September. An influx of terns on 16th included a juvenile Arctic and four Black Terns among the year's highest count of 220 Common Terns. Black Terns continued to arrive, peaking at 55+ on 17th with numbers gradually dwindling to a singleton on 26th. Further Arctic Terns were also seen, with three on 21st and a juvenile on 23rd. On the latter date, a male Common Redstart was on Southern Marsh and a Yellow Wagtail flew E. A Bar-tailed Godwit was off the Golf Centre on 30th, and 15 Black Terns flew E the same day, with another five on 31st remaining into September. Also on 31st, a Tree Pipit was in the protected area in the early morning and a juvenile Knot was off the Golf Centre.

SEPTEMBER: A Spotted Flycatcher was by the Incinerator on 2nd, surprisingly only about the fourth site record; another was in the same spot on 8th-10th. A Knot, perhaps the same one seen at the end of August, was off the Golf Centre from 5th to 12th. The first Manx Shearwater for the site was in Barking Bay on 7th, watched from the Essex side of the river, then seen off the Golf Centre and sewage outfall on 8th. A Common Buzzard made an unprecedented three-day stay around the Nature Reserve on 27th-29th.

OCTOBER: A first-winter Common Redstart was by the hide in the protected area on 4th. The first Grey Plover of the year was off the Golf Centre on 9th, and it or another was there on 17th. Despite successful breeding last year, the Barn Owl in the protected area on 9th was the year's only record. A Siskin, surprisingly rare at Crossness, flew W near the Golf Centre on 25th. The last day of the month saw the year's peak count of 206 Black-tailed Godwits.

NOVEMBER: Eight Brent Geese flew E down the Thames on 4th. The two Arctic Skuas, which spent several days off Rainham, ventured upriver and were seen off the Golf Centre on 7th - the first site record. Another Grey Plover was on the foreshore the same day. Four Bullfinches were by the footpath along the southern edge of the Sewage Works on 8th - the only record of this increasingly rare species this year. A Short-eared Owl that paid a brief visit to the paddocks on 16th appears to be the first record for the site. Undoubtedly the first Crossness record, and totally unexpected, was the Hawfinch which flew W with a group of Fieldfares on 30th; and 75 Redwings, heading N or E the same day, was the year's peak count.

DECEMBER: The year's only Black Redstart was briefly on the Crossness Engines building on 6th. A flock of 50 Eurasian Wigeon, which flew high W on 14th, was by far the highest count for several years. A Woodcock in the protected area on 21st was about the 3rd Crossness record. A Jack Snipe was trapped and ringed in the early hours of Christmas Day. Two Brent Geese on the Thames on 27th were the last unusual birds of the year.

*John Archer, 8 Smead Way, London, SE13 7GE*

## Bird highlights at RSPB Rainham Marshes, 2008

*Howard Vaughan*

*A fine year on the marshes with 184 species recorded, including several new to site such as Stone Curlew (March and April), Richard's Pipit (April), Black Kite (July), Oortolan Bunting (August), Yellow-browed Warbler, Treecreeper and Glossy Ibis (October) and Squacco Heron (November). Other undoubted highlights included the long-staying Barnacle Geese into January, attempted breeding by Avocets, four Great Egrets, autumn Aquatic and Marsh Warblers, up to seven Serins, four Dartford Warblers, two Penduline Tits, a host of gulls and terns, and a fantastic passage of raptors. It can only get better.*

**JANUARY:** Our Christmas 2007 stars, the Barnacle Geese, stayed until 16th when 39 of the original 88 were last seen and attracted a steady stream of admirers before they headed east to Elmley in Kent. Two White-fronted Geese brightened up the 2nd, when a sparkling, red-eyed Slavonian Grebe was found fishing on Aveley Pools - only the second record for the reserve. Strong winds brought several Kittiwakes, Little Gulls and a Common Goldeneye up the Thames. Northern Lapwing increased quite dramatically and by 25th 3,000 were shimmering black and white across the marshes with 500 Golden Plovers for company. Other waders included 30 Curlew, 410 Black-tailed Godwits, two Jack Snipe and a record 17 Knot. An Iceland Gull was found on the 3rd and visited sporadically until 26th. Four Caspian Gulls and a Ring-billed Gull (25th) completed a good gull month. Peregrine Falcons made frequent hunting sorties after waders and ducks, and a female Merlin made irregular appearances in pursuit of finches and pipits. At least three Short-eared Owls were holding winter territory on the silt lagoons. European Stonechats were ever present, and a Black Redstart was seen along the newly-opened section of the Riverside Path. Finches abounded, with over 400 Linnet finding plenty of seeds to keep them well fed, while flocks of Greenfinch, Goldfinch and Chaffinch congregated around the feeders near the visitor centre; Reed and Corn Buntings could be found on the foreshore with three species of pipit and Pied and Grey Wagtails. The mild weather prompted three male Cetti's Warblers to explode into song, and Robins, Song Thrushes and Mistle Thrushes had all been proclaiming their spring intentions.

**FEBRUARY:** It was an unseasonably sunny month with some fantastic spring-like days on the reserve. With nothing like wintry weather there was little in the way of movement, with duck numbers barely fluctuating and Northern Lapwing numbers dropping off steadily as the days lengthened. Six White-fronted Geese visited on the 16th-17th on the back of the one spell of chilly easterlies and a Brent Goose visited from 20th-22nd. The Golden Plover flock was occasionally up to 300 but more often 30, and about 150 Black-tailed Godwits still visited at high tide accompanied by a single Grey Plover and 30 Ringed Plover. Three Green Sandpipers were wintering on site and Common Snipe numbers leapt up in the last week with a high of 73 (and one Jack Snipe) on 25th. The Short-eared Owls were quite reliable and Peregrine Falcon and Merlin sightings increased; a pair of the latter was seen tussling on 17th. Two Marsh Harriers were seen on 6th and 28th and a Common Buzzard went through on 14th. Gulls were ever popular, with the Iceland Gull



visiting sporadically and at least five Caspian, six Mediterranean and a Glaucous Gull also being reported. The Thames was quiet except for a Red-throated Diver on 10th and several Great Crested Grebe sightings. Our feeders were still busy with finches, and at least three Cetti's Warblers were stridently singing around the trail. Five Corn Buntings were again seen on the foreshore (17th) and both Water and Rock Pipits were relatively easy to find. The Black Redstart was again seen on the rubbish tip.

**MARCH:** Unlike February, March was distinctly inclement with plenty of wind, rain and even snow. Duck numbers remained high and a Goosander on 6th was very notable. Thousands of gulls moved through the reserve: they were mostly Black-headed but included at least four Mediterranean, one Little (30th), two Caspian, and two Iceland Gulls (the juvenile intermittently until 31st and an adult seen on 5th). Oystercatchers were back and proclaiming their territories on the foreshore. The 9th saw a very early Little Ringed Plover back on site, with two present from 15th (our first real spring day). Seven Northern Wheatears and the first two Avocets of the year were also present on 15th, and three more Avocets on 26th. Numerous Common Chiffchaffs, a Willow Warbler, three White Wagtails (20th) and a couple of Sand Martins and Swallows suggested a change in the weather. Up to four Bearded Tits and three Cetti's Warblers were on the trail circuit but European Stonechat numbers dwindled to just a pair by month end. A Spotted Redshank from 28th was new for the year. The 27th saw a flock of 15 Common Scoters on the Thames all day - this movement was mirrored across East Anglia. Three Short-eared Owls continued to hunt the Silt Lagoons and three each of Marsh Harrier and Common Buzzard moved through from 14th. Star raptor goes to the Osprey seen heading north on 29th; but the bird of the month was found next day - a fine Stone Curlew roosting up amongst the ant-hills.

**APRIL:** With high water-levels the numbers of duck remained good well into April. Three Pintail stayed throughout and Tufted Ducks reached a spring high of 54 on 12th. The 16th saw three male and a single lucky female Garganey on the site. A single drake was seen on and off after this date. Two Egyptian Geese arrived on 15th and stayed a few days, while a single Brent Goose bobbed up-river on 16th. Wader passage was reasonable, with the first Whimbrel on 12th and groups of up to seven subsequently. Two Spotted Redshanks and up to three Greenshank moved through along with six Ruff, Sanderling (16th) and Turnstone (19th) and the odd Bar-tailed Godwit or two. Seven British-race Black-tailed Godwits were seen in addition to our usual flock of Icelandic birds. Two Avocets seemed quite taken by the new scrape. Astonishingly, our second Stone Curlew of the spring gave excellent, if distant views, for most of the 16th. The Thames was fairly quiet but yielded a few Common Terns from 18th, five Arctic Terns (20th), a Black Tern (21st) and a flurry of Little Gulls from 20th. An Arctic Skua on 23rd was a great spring record. There was plenty of big bird-of-prey action with at least seven Marsh Harriers, a Common Buzzard, Red Kite (2nd), and two Goshawk sightings - a female on 2nd and a male on 13th. Peregrine Falcons were regular, and the last Merlin was a male seen on 11th while the first Hobby was on 22nd. Three Short-eared Owls stayed well into the month and give us hope... Small birds were well represented, with some goodies among the commoner migrant fayre. A Common Redstart was seen on 9th with single Black Redstarts on 15th, 24th and 29th. A male Whinchat on the 24th with Northern Wheatears completed the good chats. Ring Ouzels were

seen on 20th and 24th, with a late Fieldfare on 27th. Yellow Wagtails were largely fly-overs, as were a Tree Pipit (10th) and Yellowhammer (13th), while two Water Pipits stayed until 10th. The find of the month was a Richard's Pipit from 27th - a new site bird! Three Grasshopper Warblers reeled from 20th, and our first Garden Warbler of the season appeared the next day.

MAY: With near-perfect water-levels across the site, it was not that surprising that May became a wader month, with a staggering 24 species recorded including 21 of those in just one week! All the commoner species were recorded, along with several Black and Bar-tailed Godwits, Sanderlings and Little Stints, four Knot in resplendent chestnut plumage, seven Turnstones, three Wood Sandpipers, and three diminutive Temminck's Stints from 11th-15th with four on the 16th. The Avocets remained on site despite losing their eggs. Summer-visiting warblers got down to the serious job of breeding, but there were still migrants to be found, with single Spotted Flycatchers on several dates and two cracking singing Firecrests on 25th. Garganey continued to be seen and at least five drakes and one duck were present as we headed into June. Little Gulls were seen at the start and end of May, and the Thames hosted five species of Tern including a Little on 4th and a Black on 5th and 7th. A howling north-easterly with rain on 26th saw some real sea-watching from the centre, with two Fulmars and a huge Gannet trying to find a way back out of the River. Up to 11 Hobbys were very obliging; but despite searching, we could not find the hoped-for Red-footed Falcon. Marsh Harriers were recorded on most days and it is becoming very difficult to ascertain how many birds are actually involved. Red Kite (14th), and Common and Honey Buzzard (both 31st), kept up the big bird-of-prey passage, while a calling Tawny Owl on 11th was an excellent bird for Rainham.

JUNE: A relatively quiet month but still some late passage evident, with Marsh Harriers daily until 3rd and a Common Buzzard on 4th. The same day, a Great Egret dropped in unexpectedly, stayed all day and then disappeared until the 7th and 8th when, amazingly, two were present on the last date; this is the third consecutive year that this imposing species has been recorded on site. Little Egrets built up to about 20 with the first of the year's youngsters arriving. Returning wader passage got underway early, with several Green Sandpipers and a Wood Sandpiper (22nd) in the last week. A single Limosa-race Black-tailed Godwit lingered and 19 were present as we headed into July. The river was quiet, but the first Yellow-legged Gulls started to appear and both Little Gull (13th) and several Mediterranean Gulls were reported. At least four drake Garganey started to moult into obscurity, and a Turtle Dove (4th) was only the second record for the year. Spotted Flycatcher (5th) and Firecrest (4th) were the only small migrants of note.

JULY: Little Egrets continued to increase and by the 23rd we had a new record of 56, which included a chunky, yellow-billed juvenile that caused us no end of trouble! Wader passage was light but continuous, with peaks of nine Whimbrel, 15 Little Ringed Plovers, 12 Greenshank and 25 Common Sandpipers, along with single Knot (29th), Wood Sandpiper (9th), Spotted Redshank (1st) and Golden Plover (24th). Yellow-legged Gulls slowly increased to a peak of 26 on 31st, and several Mediterranean Gulls were seen. Small parties of Common Tern patrolled the Thames, and the first Common Gulls returned on 13th. A Kittiwake on 5th and a Siskin (4th) were both unseasonal. Yellow Wagtails appeared from mid-month, and two Common Crossbills were seen on 31st - when the bird of the month, a Black

Kite, was watched for several minutes. Juvenile Marsh Harriers started to move through from 22nd with two on several dates.

**AUGUST:** A relatively quiet month on the reserve but busy on the Thames, with a fantastic tern passage from about 16th onwards. Between then and 31st, over 1,200 Common, 44 Arctic, 10 Sandwich, 31 Black, and a single Little, logged. There was very little else noted, bar a high of 14 Yellow-legged Gulls and three Kittiwakes. There were eight Marsh-Harrier days (with two on two dates), and two single Common Buzzards. Peregrine Falcons and Hobbys were regular. Wader passage was kept low due to the dropping water-levels, but all the usual species were seen including Wood Sandpipers, Spotted Redshank, five Avocets, 12 Greenshank, Knot, four Sanderlings and both Godwits. A Garganey was seen on the 8th, and Common Teal and Shoveler numbers slowly built up. Northern Wheatear and Whinchat passage was very sparse, but there were several Spotted Flycatchers, two reports of Tree Sparrows, and single Turtle Dove, Tree Pipit, Common Redstart and Nightingale. There were two Yellowhammer reports; and, as a grand finale for the month, a smart Ortolan Bunting paid a brief visit on 30th.

**SEPTEMBER:** Tern passage continued, with over 1,500 Common, 200 Arctic, 112 Black, 25 Sandwich, and three Little Terns, logged - 11th being the big day, with over 800 birds seen! Kittiwakes (7th and 24th), three Little Gulls (12th), three Brent Geese (22nd), and two Common Scoter (4th and 14th) were also seen. Marsh Harriers were seen on nine dates, all being fresh juveniles - other than a fine adult male on the 7th, which was very unusual for the marsh. Ospreys headed through on the 7th and 19th, and Common Buzzards were seen on seven days including a staggering 13 on the 20th. With a national influx of Honey Buzzards under way, it was not surprising that we had one on 13th and two the following day. A female Merlin was seen from 17th. A male Goshawk was seen on the 23rd, with two high and east on 27th; and several obliging Hobbys finished off the excellent raptor selection. There were few waders to be seen, but Knot and Bar-tailed Godwit were on the Thames, and a Little Stint and Pectoral Sandpiper on the pools from 28th. Up to a dozen Little Egrets roosted of an evening, and our third Great Egret of the year briefly popped in on 9th. Stock Doves built up to 110 on Wennington (25th), and Turtle Doves were seen on 9th and 18th. Duck began to increase, with Pintail, Eurasian Wigeon, Shoveler and Gadwall on the up and a couple of Garganey found amongst them. There was plenty of small-bird activity right from the start, with the third Aquatic Warbler for the reserve from the 3rd-8th; this endangered eastern-European breeder attracted quite a crowd but was incredibly elusive. From 17th, two Wrynecks proved equally popular but more obliging; while diligent searching of the woodland produced up to four Spotted Flycatchers, a Common Redstart and plenty of warblers, including a skulking Marsh Warbler on 14th. Out on the marsh there were a few Northern Wheatears; and peaks of 11 Whinchats and nine European Stonechats, both on the 10th. Eight Tree Pipits were caught up with the Meadow Pipit migration, and the first Rock Pipit of the season was seen on 20th. A couple of Redwing and a fine Ring Ouzel were seen before the month turned. A record 46 Ring-necked Parakeets were counted heading back to their roost site at Hither Green on 19th.

**OCTOBER:** October got off to a great start, with the first ever Treecreeper for the site on 3rd-4th. This was followed on the 8th by not one, but two, Yellow-browed Warblers fresh in from the east. One was seen again on the 10th, while Black

Redstart (5th and 29th), Common Redstart (7th-8th), and a fine Ring Ouzel (8th), added autumnal interest. Finches were on the move, with many Lesser Redpolls (including 50 on 17th), Siskins, Linnets, and even a Bullfinch, seen. This arrival culminated on the 22nd when no less than four Serins were found. This tiny continental finch is a very scarce visitor to Britain, so when the number rose to at least five on the 29th we were gob-smacked! Two, normally coastal, Twite and a few Brambling completed the month's unusual finch-fest, which on the 26th totalled over 1,000 birds! The 22nd also heralded a brief visit from a lanky Richard's Pipit and three Dartford Warblers that managed to find the only patch of gorse on the reserve. Gannet (6th), Arctic Skua (6th), Great Skua (12th), immature Shag (8th), and Common Scoter (18th), kept eyes on the Thames, while Short-eared Owls made a welcome return to the Silt Lagoons along with one of our resident Barn Owls. Several Common Buzzards and a Marsh Harrier moved through, and Peregrine Falcon sightings became more regular. Little Egrets lingered; and a Glossy Ibis was seen, briefly but well, on the 21st - another new site bird. Gull-watching produced a couple of Meds and the first Caspian Gulls of the autumn. Our local Cetti's Warblers began to spread out, with at least eight in song on the trail circuit, while three Northern Wheatears on 31st were a little tardy in heading for Africa. Common Darter and Migrant Hawker dragonflies were still on the wing as we headed into November, and even the marsh frogs had not given up their croaking. The bull grey seal was occasionally seen showing off his eel-catching skills.

NOVEMBER: Needless to say, the Serins dominated November's birding, with up to four regularly being seen but with at least seven on 13th; three were still around on the 20th and a single into December. Two of the Dartford Warblers were seen at the west end of the sea-wall until 12th, with the fine male staying all month. The Twite did likewise but was only seen occasionally, 26th being the last date. There were several late migrant records during November, with a Common Whitethroat (until 17th), Swallows (9th and 13th), Ring Ouzel (3rd) and a Willow Warbler (25th); and a Squacco Heron shocked us all by flying past the centre window on 10th. A Snow Bunting arrived on 4th and stayed five days, with another briefly on 17th. Fieldfares and Redwings were in the scrub, and continued checking of the finch flocks produced a couple more Bramblings and the hoped-for Tree Sparrow and Corn Bunting. An amazing 46 European Stonechats were counted around the reserve on 12th, and a small party of Bearded Tits was seen on the trails along with up to eight singing Cetti's Warblers. An Arctic Skua was found on 4th and stayed all month, occasionally being joined by a second bird; and Mediterranean Gulls (3rd and 29th), Kittiwakes (1st and 22nd), and Caspian Gulls (from 23rd), added interest. Duck numbers were still fairly low but included counts of Brent Geese on five dates, 22 Pintail, and 121 Gadwall, along with four Bewick's Swans that visited briefly on 4th; Greylag and Canada Geese flocks reached 375 and 180 respectively. A Red-throated Diver (1st) and Common Scoter (22nd) were both notable. Northern Lapwing (1,000), Golden Plover (200), Black-tailed Godwit (300) and Dunlin (800) had slowly risen in number, and amongst them we found four Grey Plover, Curlew Sandpiper (from 13th) and Little Stint (from 22nd). Our daily procession of Ring-necked Parakeets reached 64 on 16th.

DECEMBER: With some good cold easterly winds, we had high hopes of some interesting wildfowl; but although numbers of Eurasian Wigeon (c.550), Pintail (24) and Gadwall (130) increased, the only notable duck was a female Goosander seen

on 5th. Gulls were definitely on the move, with a dramatic increase in Great Black-backed, and Herring Gulls of the northern race. Amongst these were nine sightings of Caspian Gull involving at least six birds, 40 Yellow-legged Gulls, a second-winter Glaucous Gull (6th and then 20th-24th), and several Mediterranean Gulls. Dunlin reached a high of 1,000 and Northern Lapwing nearly 2,500, with 420 Golden Plover and three wintering Ruff. Black-tailed Godwits from Iceland reached a reserve-high of 500, and a single Bar-tailed Godwit was seen on 28th. Rock Pipits increased to at least 22 on the whole river stretch, and seven Water Pipits were amongst them. The finch flocks of October and November had dissipated from the landfill site, but we were still attracting large numbers of Greenfinches, Goldfinches, Linnets and Chaffinches to the vicinity of the visitor centre. The Serin made sporadic appearances into the New Year, with two again on 22nd, and two Bramblings were seen. Six Corn Buntings were mobile along the river wall, and Reed Buntings began to flock. A new Dartford Warbler was found on 1st and was last seen on 18th. Out on the trails, Water Rails were very evident, at least eight Cetti's Warblers were to be found, and a pair of Bearded Tits was occasionally located. The 6th saw the long-awaited return of Penduline Tits to the reserve and they were seen intermittently into the New Year, making it four out of the last five Winters and all of the last six years for this species on the marsh. There were very few thrushes. Three Short-eared owls continued to show at the west end, and Peregrine Falcons became daily once again. Merlins were seen on 2nd and 29th, and a couple of Common Buzzards were seen. A Red Kite on the 8th was unseasonal.

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## Bird highlights at Regent's Park, 2008

*Tony Duckett*

**JANUARY:** A walk on New Year's day produced three high-flying Pintail, as well as our adult Yellow-legged Gull and four Siskins. Due to no really significant cold weather, duck numbers on the lake remained about average for this time of the year. The less-common species peaked at three Common Teal, 15 Gadwall, eight Ruddy Duck, 14 Mandarin and 28 Red-crested Pochard. The pair of Little Owls could be seen on the warmer sunny days. A female Kingfisher arrived towards the end of the month and was then regularly seen around the lake, though she preferred the Hanover Bridge end of the lake. A group of six Redwings took up home on Gloucester Green from 28th, and a pair of Peregrine Falcons was seen on 29th plus 20 fly-over Siskins.

**FEBRUARY:** A 1st-winter Caspian Gull - the Park's first record of this species - was on the lake at 08:20, before flying off with the other large gulls. There were 14 Song Thrushes proclaiming their territories within the first few days. The first Grey Heron young could be heard calling from within a nest on 15th. A Lesser Redpoll and a Rook flew through on 23rd. The first Little Grebes had returned by the month end.

**MARCH:** A Common Snipe was flushed from the Wetland Pen 4th, and 25 Redwings landed briefly on the open spaces 9th. A female European Stonechat spent four days in the Cricket Pen from 11th. A male Reed Bunting held a territory in the grounds of the old boathouse from 13th. On the 19th, a flock of 300 Redwings flew east at 06:30, six Common Chiffchaffs were present, and a Common Snipe was flushed from long grass. A second male Reed Bunting was present 25th, this time in the wetland pen. A male Ring Ouzel landed briefly in a hawthorn 26th and a Mallard with four ducklings was on the lake. A Rock Pipit circled the open spaces for ten minutes on 30th. There was further excitement later in the day when, prompted by a phone call, I looked up to see a splendid Black Kite, soaring higher and higher above my house before drifting off eastwards. On phoning the bird-keepers in London Zoo, I was informed that a hole had appeared in the Snowdon Aviary, and that this was the second Black Kite to escape; over the course of the next few days, the remaining two kites escaped. Due to health and safety, a specialist firm was needed, so it took a few weeks before the repairs could be carried out. These birds caused a lot of excitement as they roamed around the country, with birders not knowing if they were genuine migrants or not.

**APRIL:** A Willow Warbler and Blackcap arrived 2nd. Three Yellowhammers, early House Martin and Swallow, as well as Common Buzzard (which was the first of 21 to be seen during 2008), flew through on 3rd. A female Brambling spent four days feeding in Nursery Lodge from the 2nd. A Hobby flew north 4th and our second Ring Ouzel flew east 16th. A Sedge and Reed Warbler sang from reed beds 20th. The 22nd was a red-letter day with Osprey, Hobby, two Common Buzzards, Whimbrel and Whinchat. Two Mealy Redpolls fed in an oak tree on 23rd - the first genuine record for the Park. The local adult Peregrine Falcon chased off an immature male at 07:40 on 25th. A member of the public, who had won the chance of a personal bird-watching walk around the Park, was rewarded with fantastic views of an Osprey circling over Queen Mary's as it gained height before drifting off northwards 25th. The first Northern Wheatears of the spring put in an appearance 27th, about a month later than was expected.



**MAY:** The 2nd saw the first Common Sandpiper of the year flying over the lake; continuing the water-bird theme, a Common Tern flew east 3rd. Two birds that are in serious decline in the UK were seen on the 4th: a Turtle Dove flew north-east; and a Wood Warbler was found late in the day by one diligent observer. The second Common Sandpiper was around for half an hour 10th, and at mid-day a Red Kite drifted north. A male Firecrest was singing from inside the Leaf Yard Wood 11th.

**JUNE:** The male Little Owl appeared to be feeding young on 8th. The first of three Cuckoos was seen 9th, another was in the Wetland Pen 16th, and then that or another was again in the Wetland Pen 23rd. If not the same bird, it could be that they are being attracted by the increasing number of Reed Warblers in the Park.

**JULY:** Signs of the invasion of Common Crossbills into the UK finally reached us when one flew north-west 14th; there were to be a further five sightings. Two Common Sandpipers and a Hobby were recorded later in the month.

**AUGUST:** A Nuthatch was calling from the wildlife garden early morning on the 5th. Passage migrant numbers increased as the month progressed: 12 Blackcaps arrived overnight 14th; Lesser Whitethroat and more than 30 Willow Warblers were in the Park 17th; a Wood Warbler was in the Goose Pen 22nd; and the first of seven autumn Common Redstarts turned up 23rd, the best park tally for many years. A pair of Little Grebes 26th had managed to bring off one chick.

**SEPTEMBER:** The last Common Swift of the year flew west 4th and a Common Redstart turned up in the grounds of the old golf school, staying until the 7th. The 8th saw Merlin, Woodlark, Yellow Wagtail, 550 Swallows and the first Siskins of the autumn all fly through. A Pied Flycatcher spent three days in the grounds of the old golf school from 11th, being joined by Wood Warbler 12th and briefly by a Tree Pipit 13th. A Firecrest was with the tit flock in the Longbridge Sanctuary 17th. What could have been the same Hobby was seen on four dates between 18th and 25th. On the 19th, a Honey Buzzard flew north-east with a Common Buzzard at 16:30; five minutes later, a different Common Buzzard flew south-west. While these were being watched, two Common Redstarts were feeding in the Cricket Pen. Two Dunlin flew over 25th, the same day that the first Fieldfare, Redwing and Song Thrushes were on the move. A flock of seven Common Crossbills flew through 27th and then seven Bramblings 28th.

**OCTOBER:** The Firecrest was seen again in the same area on the 7th. Ring Ouzels were seen 9th and 10th. A Little Egret flew east 13th. Two Water Pipits flew north-west 18th, calling frequently to stay together.

**NOVEMBER:** The only large scale movement of Wood pigeons saw 1,400 fly north on the 10th - they normally head south-west. Woodcocks were seen on the 11th in two different areas. On the 17th, a Water Rail was in the rail ditch; the following day another was heard calling from across the lake. The second Little Egret of the year flew east on 26th.

**DECEMBER:** A female Firecrest was found feeding in the Avenue Gardens on 3rd. What was probably one of this year's Little Owl youngsters was found roosting in the Goose Pen. A Woodcock was flushed from by the Inner Circle 9th. A flock of 14 Siskins that had arrived in November were still feeding in and around the Cricket Pen. Two Water Rails were seen in the ditch 17th and were still present into January 2009.

## Bird highlights at Stoke Newington Reservoirs, 2008

*Mark Pearson*

With no extended cold snaps, the first winter period was predictably quiet, with a Yellow-legged Gull on Jan 8th and a pair of Red-crested Pochards from Jan 25th to Feb 15th just about qualifying as highlights. Regular winterers included Water Rails, Kingfisher, Reed Buntings and Grey Wagtails; high water-levels accounted for a lack of Common Snipe, and Green Sandpipers took until the end of February to put in an appearance.

MARCH was a slight improvement, with Bramblings present throughout - several were faithful to the East Res feeding station, where finch numbers were high. Common Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps were regular in single figures, as were Green Sandpipers and Kingfishers in ones and twos. Three Common Teal arrived on the 19th, but not before the first Sand Martins, which just scraped into the first half of the month with two on the 14th.

What APRIL lacked in quality it made up for in variety, with the arrival of long-distance migrants staggered throughout. The year's first Willow Warblers were in song on the 2nd, soon followed by Swallows, House Martins and Common Sandpipers; the 16th saw the first Reed Warbler and Common Tern, with Sedge Warbler the next day, Lesser and Common Whitethroats (finally) on 22nd, and Common Swift on 25th. Hirundines, Siskins, Linnets, Skylarks and Jackdaws all moved through in expected numbers, while a pair of Shelduck (just about annual here) visited on 17th and 21st. Raptor movements were light (although coverage was very limited), with a couple of Common Buzzards and a Red Kite, although Meadow Pipit passage was strong, with a clear peak of 107 north on the 4th.

MAY was uneventful in the main, but for breeding species and regular numbers of common migrants; of the former, two pairs of Common Whitethroats were a pleasant surprise. A Red Kite on the 5th looked like being the raptor highlight, until the final day of the month. The 31st was mild and bright, and hosted the bird of the spring - a dark-morph Honey Buzzard circled low over the East Res for several minutes before eventually being driven away by the local Lesser Black-backed Gulls.

Mid-summer was predictably uneventful, with the odd Common Buzzard in June and up to 270 Common Swifts in late July in addition to the regular breeders, which included Great Crested (two pairs) and Little Grebes (one), Reed Warblers (12 to 14), Grey Wagtails, Lesser Black-backs (two) and possibly Garden Warbler. A Kingfisher on several June dates was unseasonal.

AUGUST provided plenty of interest, with highlights being an early Spotted Flycatcher on 4th, at least six Hobbys, regular Common Sandpipers, odd Kingfishers, three Common Teal on 18th, and plenty of warblers moving through - Willow Warblers were the most numerous, with up to 20 on several dates. Several Red-crested Pochards featured again, 41 Common Terns was a high count of a common non-breeder here, and a colour-ringed Cormorant on the 1st and 17th was ringed as a chick at Abberton Reservoir, Essex, in late April.

SEPTEMBER is traditionally the most exciting month of the year, and 2008 didn't disappoint. Highlights included: a Honey Buzzard on the 14th (at the beginning of a notable influx into the eastern UK), the second of the year, and the second ever; Pied Flycatchers on 3rd-5th and 8th; a Common Crossbill on 29th; and no less than 43 Arctic Terns south-west on 11th, which constituted an overdue but breath-taking site first.

Back-up was provided by several Common Buzzards, at least six Hobbys, at least eight Spotted Flycatchers, three Eurasian Wigeon (22nd and 23rd), good hirundine passage (with a peak of 140 House Martins on 7th), all eight common warblers in variable numbers (with 20 Common Chiffchaffs on 17th), and a Red-crested Pochard on 1st. Visible migration was below average, with small numbers of Jackdaws, Meadow Pipits, Skylarks, Redwings, the odd Yellow Wagtail and other expected species trickling over. The first Siskin arrived back on the 8th, with a peak of 22 on the 25th.

OCTOBER suffered from a severe lack of coverage, but still managed to produce a few notables, the pick of them being a European Stonechat in the reedbed on the 9th, a first for the site. Other records included up to 12 Egyptian Geese, Eurasian Wigeon, Red-crested Pochard, hirundine passage including 110 House Martins on the 3rd (with the last being five on the 10th), and the year's last Reed Warbler on the 1st.

NOVEMBER was very quiet, despite coverage returning to normal; the first returning Water Rail on the 17th was about as good as it got - not that it really mattered, with DECEMBER providing two of the birds of the decade. What seemed like the first genuinely severe cold snap in years kicked in mid-month, and immediately produced the goods.

A scan of the West Reservoir on the 15th revealed impressive wildfowl numbers, which included four Red-crested Pochards (completing a productive year for the species) and an adult drake Common Goldeneye - only the second this decade. While watching the latter, an angelic immature Iceland Gull drifted low over the water and out of sight over Lordship Road in just a few short seconds; fortunately the bird pitched down over on the East Res, where it remained until dusk. An unexpected and inspiring addition to the avifauna of a very small, strictly urban local patch.

Other late winter records included a Yellow-legged Gull on the 16th, both Eurasian Wigeon and Common Teal (31st), up to two Bramblings at the feeders, and both Common Chiffchaff and Blackcap over-wintering; but it wasn't over just yet. An interesting Chiffy in the New River willows on New Year's Eve became much more interesting a day or two into 2009, when the required combination of prolonged views, photos, descriptions and calls all conspired to confirm it as a Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus (collybita) tristis*. Quite an end to the year...

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For the complete reservoirs avifauna, please visit <http://snrbirds.org.uk>

## Bird highlights at Staines Reservoirs, 2008

*Rob Innes*

*This year brought greater variety than last, although true scarcities were notable by their absence and the water levels remained high all year. Still, regular visitors enjoyed plenty of interest and the odd surprise.*

A Great Northern Diver was seen on JANUARY 3rd and 18th, the first of many records this year. Other wintering species included three Black-necked Grebes for most of the month, three Scaup which remained from 2007, a single Common Sandpiper and, early on, one or two Green Sandpipers. A Water Pipit was seen on 12th-13th, and three fly-over Siskins on 18th were unusual. A Ruddy Duck cull on 14th reduced numbers from 78 to one.

FEBRUARY highlights were an adult Kittiwake (oiled, sad to say) on 2nd, an immature Shag on the south basin on 12th only, and ten Smew on 17th - a decent total. Black-necked Grebes increased to six late in the month, while a Great Northern Diver visited twice. The Scaup trio remained until 20th, then two lingered into March. One Common and two Green Sandpipers were seen fleetingly. Single Water Pipits were around on three dates. Early migrant waders included five Ringed Plovers 17th, and a Dunlin and an Oystercatcher 26th. A particularly early migrant European Stonechat fed along the fence on 24th and 25th.

More birds were on the move in MARCH, including Kittiwakes 14th and 25th (two), two Oystercatchers 16th, a Little Gull from 25th, and single Black-tailed Godwits 26th and 30th. First returning summer visitors were Common Chiffchaff on 15th, Sand Martin 16th (with some reasonable counts later, peaking at 128 on 25th) and Northern Wheatear 20th. Waterbirds included up to 11 Black-necked Grebes, Great Northern Diver regularly from 20th, and two Scaup all month - with four 30th-31st.

Migrant variety and volume increased during APRIL, with perhaps the month's top sighting occurring on 23rd - a brief but large arrival of Arctic Terns, estimated at 192 birds! Otherwise, Arctic Terns were seen on eight dates from 15th, with a peak of 12 on 30th. Other terns included a Black on 29th-30th, Commons from 5th, and two Sandwich on 24th. A reasonable passage of Little Gulls peaked at 22 on 22nd, and four Mediterranean Gulls were seen. Wader migration brought in Little Ringed Plovers (from 15th), Black-tailed Godwits (three on 26th), Ruff (two on 26th and 30th), Whimbrel (max. five on 26th) and single Grey Plover and Sanderling (both 27th). Black-necked Grebes remained until 22nd and a Great Northern Diver until 30th. Four Water Pipits on 2nd were noteworthy. A Marsh Harrier flew N on 27th, and an apparent Gyr Falcon heightened pulses on the last day of the month - much missed by its owner, no doubt.

MAY brought several uncommon visitors, notably single Avocets on 3rd and 6th, drake Garganey 5th-6th, Red Kite 10th, and Brent Goose and Curlew Sandpiper 17th. A good series of Little Tern sightings comprised two on 9th and singles on 15th, 17th and 27th; and the best passage of Black Terns for a while peaked at 20 on 7th. Arctics appeared on four dates and three Sandwich Terns passed through on 4th. Up to four Little Gulls remained all month. Three wader species featured

particularly strongly: Grey Plover (about ten different birds seen), Sanderling (max. ten on 16th) and Turnstone (max. 13 on 15th and 16th). Among other waders were Bar-tailed Godwits 7th and 16th, up to 12 Dunlin 4th, and several Oystercatchers, Whimbrels and Greenshanks. A Mediterranean Gull was seen from 5th-12th.

Breeding results in JUNE were good for Black-headed Gulls, with probably just over 100 occupied nests and good productivity. Their displacement of the nesting Common Terns, however, gave cause for alarm: a mere 14-15 pairs of terns attempted to breed - but no young are thought to have fledged. Most unexpected visitor of the month was a summer-plumage Red-necked Grebe, first detected on 22nd, which remained until July 2nd. Other species on the move included four Black Terns on 1st, Red Kite 6th, up to four Little Gulls, two Mediterranean Gulls 21st, Black-necked Grebe 29th and Common Sandpiper 30th.

Slowly, southbound migration picked up momentum during JULY. Up to three Black-necked Grebes were recorded, and the month brought several sightings of Black-tailed Godwits, Whimbrel and Turnstones, a couple of Sanderling, Mediterranean Gull on seven dates, Kittiwake on 19th, Oystercatcher 20th and four next day, Red Kite and Little Tern 29th, and a Greenshank and an unseasonal Common Goldeneye 31st.

AUGUST got going with an excellent record of 14 short-staying Little Terns on 2nd. Osprey on 21st was another highlight. Wader passage was moderate, but featured Ruff on 7th, a nice flock of 17 Black-tailed Godwits which flew through 15th, four Curlews 17th, an early Golden Plover 30th, one or two Knot on four dates, about five Sanderling, and a good showing of Turnstones with a peak of seven on 13th. Three Sandwich Terns dropped in twice on 30th, and a single juvenile Arctic Tern made a long stay. Black Terns peaked at 17 on 17th. Black-necked Grebes lingered all month, usually two. Probably three Mediterranean Gulls visited. 240 Sand Martins on 6th was a good tally. Odd Northern Wheatears were seen from 15th and at least four Whinchats appeared.

Headline bird in SEPTEMBER was an evil-looking adult Great Skua, which lurked on the south basin for a couple of hours on the afternoon of 9th - the first at Staines since 1982. Other uncommon visitors were a sub-adult Caspian Gull on the evening of 12th and a Garganey on 14th and 27th. Further wildfowl included up to four Black-necked Grebes, Common Scoter (six on 7th and one on 9th) and Pintail (max. six on 12th). Waders were poor, but there were two Ruff 14th, a Sanderling 2nd and a total of three Turnstones. Up to five Little Gulls and four Arctic Terns were noted, and there was a Mediterranean Gull 10th-11th. Up to eight Black Terns were usually to be seen in the first half of the month. Two Redwings flew over on 24th to give a foretaste of winter, one or two European Stonechats were seen several times, and odd Northern Wheatears and Whinchats dropped in - but only one Yellow Wagtail was reported, on 14th.

A juvenile Great Northern Diver turned up on OCTOBER 29th and was often to be seen until the year-end. Otherwise things were quiet, with Golden Plover and singles of Black-necked Grebe and Little Gull on 5th, an early Goosander 23rd and Water Pipit 26th. A "vis mig" [visible migration] session on 20th was rewarded with counts of 508 Chaffinches and 27 Siskins flying west - unusual records at this site.

NOVEMBER's headline species was Whooper Swan, two of which appeared early 25th but then unfortunately flew off, not to reappear. Other notables included

single Bar-tailed Godwits 2nd and 22nd, Water Pipit 2nd, Little Gull 4th, Slavonian Grebe 7th, Golden Plover 15th and four Scaup briefly on 22nd. Two Black-necked Grebes were around early in the month and a Common Sandpiper was seen several times.

In a typically quiet DECEMBER, a Common Chiffchaff was unusual on 26th, and a Common Sandpiper was noted on several dates. Other oddities were Water Pipit on 6th, Mediterranean Gull 12th, Goosander 14th, Smew 17th and 31st, and Slavonian Grebe 31st.

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## Errata

### The establishment of the Common Buzzard as a breeding species in the London Area, by Peter Oliver. *LBR* 2007 page 200.

Errors in Table 1 were introduced at the editorial stage, for which the Papers Editor apologises. The table has been corrected and is reprinted below.

**Table 1.** Number of territorial and breeding pairs of Common Buzzard in the London Area, 1995-2007. terr = confirmed and potential territorial pairs. bred = confirmed breeding attempt (included in territorial column).

	Essex		Herts		Kent		Surrey		TOTAL	
	terr	bred	terr	bred	terr	bred	terr	bred	terr	bred
1995	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
1996	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1997	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	3	-
1998	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	5	1
1999	2	-	3	-	1	1	-	-	6	1
2000	1	1	3	1	1	-	-	-	5	2
2001	1	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	3	2
2002	3	3	10	-	1	1	2	-	16	4
2003	3	3	8	-	3	2	3	-	17	5
2004	2	-	8	1	3	-	2	-	15	1
2005	4	4	15	4	4	-	8	1	31	9
2006	3	-	36	4	6	1	6	-	51	5
2007	4	-	49	1	3	1	10	1	66	3



## Checklist of Birds of the London Area, and Guide for Contributors of Ornithological Records

The total number of species recorded in an apparently wild state in the London Area in historic times is now 362, with the addition of Glaucous-winged Gull in 2007, of which 349 have been recorded since 1900.

The 13 species marked with an asterisk (\*) in the checklist were recorded in the London Area at least once prior to 1900 but have not been recorded in an apparently wild state since. The first number for each species is its EURING species number, as now used in the *LBR*.

All records of ornithological interest, from LNHS members and non-members alike, are welcomed by the Society's Ornithological Records Committee. However, with an ever-growing number of active birdwatchers in the London Area, it seems sensible to issue a guide to our requirements.

This guide is not intended to be comprehensive, and contributors are asked to use their own guidance and common sense, but it does serve as a reference point for the type of records required. For example, with many common breeding species, comparative yearly breeding counts are especially welcomed. The Records Committee reserves the right to request full details for any record, eg out of season migrants. This guide does not apply to Inner London, where all records are required, but similar criteria regarding descriptions should be followed.

### KEY:

- A = all records.
- D = full description required (form available from Recorders).
- N = brief notes required (how identified, view, distance etc.; form available from Recorders).
- MM = dated monthly maxima for frequently-visited sites and all records from elsewhere subject to >n.
- >n = minimum count required, subject to other categories.
- B = all breeding records subject to >n.
- T = all territory counts as well as definite breeding records.
- S = all records between mid-May and mid-July.
- F&L = first and last dates.
- P = passage flocks and movements.
- W = all wintering records.
- BBRC = full description required (form available from Recorders). British Birds Rarities Committee makes decision.

0152	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	MM, >30, B
0153	Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	A, N
0154	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	A, N
0157	Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	A, D
0158	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	A, D
0159	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	A
0161	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	MM, B
0169	Red-breasted Goose*	<i>Branta ruficollis</i>	BBRC
0168	Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	A

0167	Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	N
0166	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	MM>20, >200, B
0170	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	A
0173	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	MM, S
0178	Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	A
0179	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	A
0180	American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	A, D
0182	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	MM>10, S
0184	Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	MM>10, S
0184.1	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>	A, D
0186	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	MM>10, >200, B
0189	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	A
0191	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	A
0192	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	A, D
0194	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	MM>10, S
0196	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	A
0198	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya farina</i>	MM>10, S
0200	Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	A, D
0202	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	A, D
0203	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	MM>50, B
0204	Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	A
0205	Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	BBRC
0206	Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	A, N
0207	King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	BBRC
0212	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	A, N
0213	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	A
0215	Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	A, D
0218	Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	A
0220	Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	A
0221	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	A
0223	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	A
0225	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	MM, B
0358	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	A
0367	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	A
0370	Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	A, D
0394	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	>20, B
0002	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	A, N
0003	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	A, N
0004	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	A
0006	Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	BBRC
0007	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	MM, B
0009	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	MM, B
0010	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	A
0011	Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	A
0012	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	A
0020	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	A, D
0046	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	A, D
0046	Balearic Shearwater	<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>	A, D
0048	Barolo Shearwater	<i>Puffinus baroli</i>	A, D

0052	European Storm-petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	A, D
0055	Leach's Storm-petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	A, D
0071	Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	A, N
0072	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	MM, B
0080	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	A
0095	Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	A
0098	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	BBRC
0104	Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	A, D
0108	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	BBRC
0111	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	A, D
0119	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	A
0121	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	A, D
0122	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	MM>15, B
0124	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	A, D
0131	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	BBRC
0134	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	A, D
0136	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	BBRC
0144	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	A, D
0231	Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	A, D
0238	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	A, D
0239	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	A
0243	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	A, D
0260	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	A
0261	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	A, D
0263	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	A, D
0267	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	A, D
0269	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	A
0287	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	A
0290	Rough-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	A, D
0296	Golden Eagle*	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	A, D
0301	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	A
0303	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	BBRC
0304	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	>5, B
0307	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	A, D
0309	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	A, N
0310	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	A
0318	Gyr Falcon	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	BBRC
0320	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	A
0407	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	A
0408	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	A, D
0410	Little Crake*	<i>Porzana parva</i>	BBRC
0410	Baillon's Crake*	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	BBRC
0421	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>	A, D
0424	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	MM>20, B>5
0429	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	MM>20, B>5
0433	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	A, D
0446	Great Bustard*	<i>Otis tarda</i>	BBRC
0450	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	A
0455	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	BBRC

0456	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	A
0459	Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	A, D
0464	Cream-coloured Courser*	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>	BBRC
0465	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	BBRC
0469	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	A
0470	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	A
0474	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	BBRC
0477	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	A, D
0482	Dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>	A, D
0483	American Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	A, D
0484	Pacific Golden Plover*	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	BBRC
0485	European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	A
0486	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	A
0491	Sociable Lapwing	<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>	BBRC
0493	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	P, >10, B
0496	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	A
0497	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	A
0499	Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	BBRC
0501	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	A
0502	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	A, D
0505	White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	A, D
0506	Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>	BBRC
0507	Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	A, D
0508	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	BBRC
0509	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	A
0510	Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	A, D
0512	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	MM>5, S
0514	Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>	BBRC
0516	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>	A, D
0517	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	A
0518	Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	A
0519	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	MM>3, S
0520	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	BBRC
0527	Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	BBRC
0529	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	A
0532	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	A
0534	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	A
0538	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	A
0541	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	A
0556	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	A
0557	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	BBRC
0553	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	A
0552	Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	BBRC
0545	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	A
0548	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	A
0551	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	BBRC
0547	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	BBRC
0554	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	A
0546	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	MM>5, S

0561	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	A
0563	Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	BBRC
0564	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	A, D
0565	Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	A, D
0566	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	A, D
0567	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	A, D
0568	Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	A, D
0569	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	A, D
0579	Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	A, D
0602	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	A
0581	Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus philadelphia</i>	BBRC
0582	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	MM>50
0578	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	A
0576	Laughing Gull	<i>Larus atricilla</i>	BBRC
0577	Franklin's Gull	<i>Larus pipixcan</i>	BBRC
0575	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	A
0590	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	MM, >10
0589	Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	A, D
0591	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	MM, >10, B
0592	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	MM, >10, B
0591.2	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	A
0591.3	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	A, D
0598	Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>	A, D
0596	Glaucous-winged Gull	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>	BBRC
0599	Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	A, D
0600	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	MM, >10
0623	Sooty Tern	<i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i>	BBRC
0622	Bridled Tern	<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>	BBRC
0624	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	A
0605	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	BBRC
0606	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	BBRC
0626	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	BBRC
0627	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	A
0628	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	A, D
0611	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	A
0615	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	>5, B, F&L
0614	Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	A, D
0616	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	A
0634	Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	A, D
0636	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	A, D
0647	Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	A, D
0654	Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	A, D
0663	Pallas's Sandgrouse	<i>Syrnhaptes paradoxus</i>	BBRC
0665	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	>100
0668	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	>10, B
0670	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	>100, B, P
0684	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	>20, B
0687	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	A
0712	Ring-necked Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	>10, B

0724	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	S, P, F&L
0728	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	BBRC
0735	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	A
0739	Scops Owl*	<i>Otus scops</i>	BBRC
0749	Snowy Owl	<i>Bubo scandiacus</i>	BBRC
0757	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	A
0761	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	A
0767	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	A
0768	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	A
0770	Tengmalm's Owl*	<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	BBRC
0778	European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	A, N
0786	Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	BBRC
0795	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	>100, B, P, F&L
0798	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	A, D
0831	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	T
0840	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	A, D
0841	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	BBRC
0846	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	A, D
0848	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	A, D
0856	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	T
0876	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	T
0887	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	T
0968	Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	A, D
0972	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	BBRC
0974	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	A, D away from breeding sites
0976	Skylark	<i>Alda arvensis</i>	>5, B, P
0978	Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	A, D
0981	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	>20, B, F&L, P
0992	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	>50, B, F&L, P
1001	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	>50, B, F&L, P
0995	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	A, D
1002	Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>	A, D
1005	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	A, D
1008	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	BBRC
1009	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	A
1011	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	>25, B, P
1012	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	A, D
1014	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	A
1015	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	A
1017	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	A
1018	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	BBRC
1019	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	MM, S
1020	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	>5, B
1048	Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulous</i>	A
1050	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	A, D
1066	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	>10, T
1084	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	>10, T
1094	Alpine Accentor*	<i>Prunella collaris</i>	BBRC



1099	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	>10, T
1104	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	A
1106	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	A, D
1121	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	A
1122	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	A
1137	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	A
1139	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	A
1146	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	A
1149	Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>	BBRC
1178	Grey-cheeked Thrush	<i>Catharus minimus</i>	BBRC
1186	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	A
1187	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	>20, P, T
1197	Naumann's Thrush	<i>Turdus naumanni</i>	BBRC
1198	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	>20, F&L, P
1200	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	>5, P, T
1201	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	>20, F&L, P
1202	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	>5, P, T
1203	American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	BBRC
1220	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	A
1236	Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	A
1238	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	BBRC
1242	Aquatic Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>	A, D
1243	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	>5, F&L, T
1247	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	BBRC
1248	Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	BBRC
1250	Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	A, D
1251	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	>5, F&L, T
1259	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>	A, D
1260	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	A, D
1277	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	>10, F&L, T, W
1276	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	>5, F&L, T
1273	Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	A, D
1274	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	>5, F&L, T
1275	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	>5, F&L, T
1262	Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>	A
1265	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	A, D
1267	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	BBRC
1298	Pallas's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	A, D
1300	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	A, D
1301.1	Hume's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	BBRC
1301	Radde's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>	A, D
1308	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	A
1311	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	>10, F&L, T, W
1311.1	Iberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>	BBRC
1312	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	>10, F&L, T
1314	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	>5, T
1315	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	A
1335	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	A
1343	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>	A, D

1349	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	A
1364	Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	A
1437	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	>20, T
1462	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	>20, T
1464	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	>20, T
1454	Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>	A, D
1461	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	>20, T
1442	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montana</i>	A, N
1440	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	A
1479	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	T
1486	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	T
1487	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	BBRC
1490	Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	BBRC
1508	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	A, D
1514	Isabelline Shrike	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>	BBRC
1515	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	A, D
1519	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>	BBRC
1520	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	A, D
1523	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	A, D
1539	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	>15, B>5, P
1549	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	>15, B>5, P
1557	Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>	BBRC
1560	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	>20, B
1563	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	>20, B
1567	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	>50, B>5
1567.1	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	A, N
1572	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	A, N
1582	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	>100, B>10
1584	Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>	A, D
1591	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	>20, B>5
1598	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	A
1636	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	>50, B, P
1638	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	A
1640	Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	A, D
1649	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	>30, B, P
1653	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	>30, B, P
1654	Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	>5, S
1660	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	>10, B, P
1662	Twite	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>	A, D
1663	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	>5, S
1663.1	Mealy Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	A, N
1664	Arctic Redpoll	<i>Carduelis hornemanni</i>	A, D
1665	Two-barred Crossbill*	<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	BBRC
1666	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	A
1668	Parrot Crossbill*	<i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i>	A, D
1679	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	A, D
1699	Pine Grosbeak*	<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>	BBRC
1710	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	>5, B
1717	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	A

1847	Lapland Bunting	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	A, D
1850	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	A, N
1856	Pine Bunting	<i>Emberiza leucocephalos</i>	BBRC
1857	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	A, D
1858	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	A, D
1866	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	A, D
1873	Rustic Bunting	<i>Emberiza rustica</i>	A, D
1874	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	A, D
1877	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	>10, T, P
1881	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	BBRC
1882	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	A

In addition to the above, full descriptions are required for all species assessed by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee. Description forms are available from the Recorders or the Chair of the Editorial Board on request. All records of escapes are also welcomed by the Society. All records of hybrids and birds showing plumage aberrance are also required.

### Subspecies

All records of subspecies/races are wanted. Full descriptions are required for the following: White Wagtail in autumn; Yellow Wagtail races other than *M. f. flavissima* and spring records of Blue-headed Wagtail; Siberian Chiffchaff; Northern Willow Warbler; Continental Coal Tit; and Northern Bullfinch. For other subspecies, please provide your reasons for assigning the record to a particular subspecies/race.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all contributors for their records - without your enthusiastic support we could not produce the annual *London Bird Report*.

*Pete Lambert, on behalf of the Editorial Board, September 2011.*

## Breeding Criteria

When sending in breeding records, please enter: 'possible breeding', 'probable breeding' or 'confirmed breeding' in the Comments section on the electronic records form according to the definitions below. Additional information can also be given, such as number of territories, broods, nests, young fledged etc.

### Possible breeding

- Species observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat
- Singing male present (or breeding calls heard) in breeding season in suitable habitat

### Probable breeding

- Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat in breeding season
- Permanent territory presumed on at least two different days, a week or more apart
- Courtship and display (judged to be in or near potential breeding habitat)
- Visiting probable nest-site
- Agitated behaviour or anxiety calls from adults, suggesting nest or young near by
- Brood patch on adult examined in the hand, suggesting incubation
- Nest-building or excavating nest-hole

### Confirmed breeding

- Distraction-display or injury-feigning
- Used nest or eggshells found (occupied or laid within period of survey)
- Recently-fledged young (for warblers and other birds whose young are fed at the nest for some time after hatching, "nidicolous species") or downy young (for ducks and other birds where the young leave the nest soon after hatching, "nidifugous species")
- Adults entering or leaving nest-site in circumstances indicating occupied nest
- Adult carrying faecal sac or food for young
- Nest containing eggs
- Nest with young seen or heard

The above breeding categories are as used in the BTO Atlas project.

## Notes for Contributors

The Editorial Board welcomes papers, short notes, photographs and drawings relating to the ornithology of the London Area and will be pleased to advise authors on the acceptability of material at draft stage if desired.

**PAPERS** should be submitted to the Papers Editor: Mike Trier, 38 Maury Road, London N16 7BP, email: miketrier@waitrose.com, tel: 020 8806 7656.

**Texts** should be sent as email attachments in Microsoft Word 2000 or earlier, or Works word-processor files. Printed text (hard copy) should be scanned and proof-read before submitting it; please contact the Papers Editor first.

**Style** English names of birds require initial capitals except after a hyphen, but group names, animals and flowers do not. Scientific names should be in italics, but only the first (generic) name should have an initial capital; their use in the text is optional. Dates should take the form Jan 1st 2004; numbers under 11 should be spelt out in text; fractions should be decimalised. Full points should be omitted from well-known initials, such as BTO, LNHS and RSPB, and also from 'eg', 'ie' and 'et al'. Quotation marks, if used, should be double.

Systematic lists within papers should be in the order of Checklist of Birds of the London Area, and in the following format for economy of space:

**Common name:** Description etc.

Euring no., and scientific name (except in the Ringing Report), are not required.

References to publications should be given in full, with the name spelt out and in italics, and in the following style:

HARRISON, J., & GRANT, P.J., 1976. *The Thames Transformed*. London.

MOON, A.V., 1988. The influx of Sabine's Gulls and other Seabirds in October 1987. *Lond. Bird Rep.* 52: 121-132.

**Illustrations** Figures and graphs in papers are welcomed. Graphs should be embedded in the text document. Digital figures (maps etc) should be sent as separate files, with their position indicated in the text. Some figures can be originated by the Papers Editor from hard copy: contact him first for guidance.

**Proofs and Reprints** Authors of papers and short notes will be sent proofs, if requested, but only printers' mistakes may be changed at this stage. Up to two free reprints of papers are provided if ordered by authors in advance; larger quantities are charged at cost.

**PHOTOGRAPHS** should be submitted to the Photographic Editor: Dominic Mitchell, c/o *Birdwatch*, Solo Publishing Ltd, B403A The Chocolate Factory, 5 Clarendon Road, London, N22 6XJ, email: dominic.mitchell@yahoo.co.uk, tel: 020 8881 0550.

**Digital photographs** should be unedited and uncropped original files and can be submitted on a CD/DVD or as email attachments (10 MB maximum per email). Each image should be accompanied by full details including species name, location and date, photographer's name and postal address for any material that needs returning. **Prints and transparencies** must be packed in a board-backed envelope or otherwise protected to prevent damage.

**LINE DRAWINGS** should be submitted to the Chair, Pete Lambert, 109 Gloucester Road, London, E17 6AF, email: plamb@phonecoop.coop, tel: 020 8531 9814.

They may be submitted as digital files (by email or on CD) or as hard-copy, suitably protected if posting.





As in many parts of the country, Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix* has declined dramatically in the London Area, with just three broods reported in 2008. This bird was photographed near Grays in early May. (David Darrell-Lambert)

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